Commerce prepares for 2020 Census. PAGE 3
18 students complete TanHoldings internship. PAGE 4

Hafa Adai!

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Dengue case confirmed

By MARC A. VENUS
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. has confirmed that a patient who had just returned from an off-island trip had been infected with dengue fever.

It was learned during a press briefing yesterday that the patient, whose identity is being withheld, is in good condition right now.

According to CHCC spokesperson Zoe Travis, the infected person had just returned from a trip to Palau. Physicians at the Commonwealth Health Center believe that the infected person contracted dengue fever through a mosquito bite during the person's trip to Palau.

Travis said that a Guam laboratory tested the patient's blood sample and confirmed that the patient has dengue fever. The blood test was initially not related to a test

See DENGUE on Page 4

Skymark's summer charters start today

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Skymark Airlines Inc.'s 15 charter flights from the Narita International Airport in Tokyo to the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport will start today, Friday.

Skymark will operate the charter flights daily on Aug. 9 to 17 and Sept. 20 to 25, using a B737-800 plane for the charters, which has 177 Economy Class seats. Five travel agencies that successfully sold Skymark charter flights last March and April are again selling the August and September flights.

Commonwealth Ports Au-

See SKYMARK on Page 4

PHI lease at CHC not extended

By MARC A. VENUS
marc_venus@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. board of trustees' decision not to extend the lease of PHI Pharmacy inside the hospital, the corporation is looking forward to a bigger space to accommodate its expanding number of services.

Acting in CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muña's stead, Subroto Banerji said the board's decision to opt out of the lease extension was primarily because of the lack of space at the Commonwealth Health Center and the increased number of

See PHI on Page 4

A PHI Pharmacy customer waits for his medicine. The PHI Pharmacy's lease extension with the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. was denied last Wednesday by the CHCC's board of trustees.
MARC A. VENUS

REMAKING GARAPAN

Bringing Garapan back to life

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Fourth part of a series

One idea can move people, unity can build a city, and commitment lays a good foundation for achieving long-term goals.

That much is clear when it comes to the Garapan Revitalization Plan, where residents,

See GARAPAN on Page 4

INSIDE

LOCAL
Honolulu police said a man intentionally set off fires at three different hotels near Waikiki.

PAGE 13

NATION
President Donald Trump pay visits to cities reeling from mass shootings that left 31 dead.

PAGE 19

ASIA
A car bomb rips through a busy Kabul neighborhood, killing 14 and wounding 145.

PAGE 20

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

Local

$31,960 forfeited to US govt

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona has issued a final order to forfeit to the U.S. government the $31,960 that was seized from a tourist who was convicted of harboring illegal aliens.

In granting the U.S. government's request, Manglona said order of forfeiture became final since no third party filed a claim on the money seized from Sen Sun.

Accordingly, Manglona said, the preliminary order of forfeiture is final.

Manglona authorized the U.S. Marshals Service and the U.S. Customs and Border Protection to dispose of the $8,541 and $23,419, respectively, in accordance with the law.

In the U.S. government's motion for a final order to forfeit the money, assistant U.S. attorney Eric O'Malley said the order of forfeiture forms part of the plea agreement between the U.S. government and Sun.

Sun, also known as Sam Sun, was accused of running a business that offered trip packages to pregnant Chinese women seeking to give birth on Saipan. He pleaded guilty to the charge of harboring illegal aliens.

In May 2018, Sun was sentenced to 12 months and one day in prison.

Authorities seized $8,541 from Sun during his arrest on Nov. 3, 2017, and $23,419 more during the search of his home in Gualo Rai on Nov. 9, 2017. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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Commerce prepares for 2020 Census

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

The Department of Commerce is getting ready to conduct the decennial CNMI census starting this month.

Beginning on Tinian in mid-August 2019, Rota in early September 2019, and Saipan in mid-September 2019, the decennial CNMI Household Survey or Census Map and Address Register will provide the most comprehensive count of all housing units and CNMI residents since the 2010 Census.

This is also known as the CNMI 2020 Census. It is usually done every 10 years.

Saipan Tribune last Tuesday obtained a leaked document that indicated the hiring of a former Torres administration Cabinet member as the 2020 Census project manager.

The Torres administration acknowledged the document, but told *Saipan Tribune* that they would be issuing a statement about it over the weekend.

In a statement from the Torres administration, it noted that the census is an important resource for legislation and policies.

"Keeping an accurate count of homes and their respective conditions, as well as accounting for the number of residents we have in the CNMI are vital resources for policymaking. This information will provide a better understanding of our resources following the devastation of Super Typhoon Yutu," Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said in the statement.

"This data will influence our plans and policies across the board. Gov. Torres and I look forward to the update and examining the changes over the last decade," Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios said, adding that the Department of Commerce Central Statistics Division will use this information to select survey samples when it conducts household surveys.

Commerce Secretary Mark O. Rabauliman added in a statement that temporary mappers will travel every road and visit every home to gather information such as descriptions of houses and count of people living in each housing unit.

"This opportunity happens once every 10 years when a census is conducted, and although we are only describing houses and taking a count of people, the operation provides a wealth of information that our policymakers and business leaders can use for economic development and social improvements," Rabauliman noted in a statement.

He noted that the temporary mappers took an oath of confidentiality according to the CNMI Statistical Act of 1990, so fears of information leaks are minimized.

"…I urge our residents and community to take some time to welcome our mappers to their neighborhoods and villages to help complete this important project," Rabauliman said.

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18 students complete TanHoldings internship program

Eighteen students successfully hurdled their first step toward entering the CNMI workforce by concluding their summer internship with TanHoldings last Tuesday.

The interns finished the six-week program and received their certificates of completion from TanHoldings executives led by CEO Jerry Tan last Tuesday at the Hibiscus Hall of Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

The 18 students were Chrisley Mari Abrigo, Christine Beceril, Christian Bravo, John Ezekiel Canape, Karl Codog, Jake Datu, Gwyneth Enriquez, Abigail Galang, Kelly Guevarra, Sue Ann Huevos, Magdalena Lieto, Kiara Manganti, David and Charissa Parco, Jedidah Peteru, Elijah San Jose, Hanna Santos, and Aerrol Velasco.

The TanHoldings Summer Internship Program ran from June 24 to Aug. 5, with the 18 interns assigned to TanHoldings affiliates: Century Insurance, CTSI Logistics, D&Q, Century Travel, iShop, Realty Management System, SeaTouch, Kanoa Resort, and Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

"It was summer well spent. At first, I was hesitant to take the program, because I am scared of interacting with a lot of people—it's out of my comfort zone," said Enriquez, who just graduated from Saipan Southern High School and is going to Northern Marianas College to pursue higher education.

Enriquez was surprised to find herself enjoying dealing with her co-workers and clients and being patient doing paperwork.

For Charissa Parco, the program gave her an idea of the career path she wants to pursue.

"I like Century Insurance and the idea of convincing people they need security because you'll never know what's going to happen next. Also, I enjoyed Fiesta and SeaTouch because we're able to interact with the tourists. Tourism is big in the CNMI and it's good to learn how companies operate to keep the industry thriving," said Parco, a Marianas High School graduate who will be going to a college in Japan.

Canape has two more years before he completes high school but, this early, he is grateful for the opportunity to participate in a program that would prepare him for a future career.

"I was tasked to be at the front desk to work with people who speak different languages. The language barrier was really a challenge, but we were told to stay calm and focused and always have a ready smile," said Canape, an incoming junior at MHS.

Each intern was deployed to a different TanHoldings affiliate each week and given hands-on experience within different departments. All in all, each intern was exposed to four different businesses.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The 18 graduates of the TanHoldings Summer Internship Program pose with the TanHoldings executive during the completion ceremony last Tuesday at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

Catherine Attao-Toves, TanHoldings vice president for Corporate Affairs and Human Resources, and Corporate HR office manager Joshlyn Blas facilitated the program.

"Each job, whether big or small, is important to the company's success. Whether you are assigned to answering phone calls or submitting reports, you have to be at your best to get the job right," Attao-Toves said.

Respecting one's job is also important, according to Datu, who once worked at Kanoa Resort's housekeeping department.

"I used to think that making the bed is easy, but it isn't. Now, I have high respect for people doing this kind of job, including the engineering department," Datu said.

At the graduation ceremony, while listening to the interns reflect on their experiences, Tan was proud of how the program has achieved its goals.

"Appreciating and respecting one's work is something you can't easily learn unless you experience doing it. I am glad that our interns experienced things that their hard-working parents do, the jobs are not easy and would require dedication for one to keep doing them," Tan said.

"This program will also help them realize their potentials and the opportunities available to them. I hope they will pursue the job they love to do and do it well for the benefit of not only themselves and their families, but for the CNMI. …One of the challenges we are facing now is the lack of a strong workforce, so training young people will help us address this hurdle in the near future," he added.

GARAPAN

From Page 1

businesses, and government agencies are convinced that checking all the boxes in that trifecta can bring life back to Garapan.

The idea is to replicate the success of Waikiki in Hawaii as one of the top tourist destinations in the world. Unity is getting together residents, business people, and government agencies to form a task force that will work on this idea. And the foundation will be the Garapan Revitalization Plan that is buttressed by the Office of Planning and Development under the Office of the Governor.

The GRTF envisions Garapan to be a premiere family-friendly destination, featuring a wide range of shopping, dining, entertainment, civic, and commercial uses in a world-class beach resort setting that is attractive for visitors and residents.

"We envision Garapan becoming a mini-Waikiki of Hawaii, a mini-Omotesando of Japan, a mini version of a world class downtown area found in all major destinations," said OPD deputy director Chris Concepcion. "Tourists will see the improvements, take photos, blog about them, share them on social media and from there the word will spread that the Marianas are again a vibrant, renewed, beautiful destination worth spending money to visit. Investors will take note, businesses will want to move to Garapan."

To distill the Waikiki experience, the CNMI is turning to the people behind Waikiki's rebirth: former Honolulu mayor Mufi Hannemann and his partners, Rick Egged and Greg Hirata.

Local residents know as much about the need for a better experience for tourists. If the CNMI wants a strong tourism industry and good word-of-mouth, we need to leave tourists with good impressions, said one resident. "Marpi, with all the World War II history, and the beaches make great stories for tourists to tell when they leave, but if you ask me about Garapan, if it makes an impression at all, it's probably not a good one."

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

PHI

From Page 1

services at the hospital.

He assured that there are no issues between CHCC and PHI Pharmacy, as the main concern is directly related to CHCC's lack of space for its service providers.

"This building and its purpose are to serve Commonwealth residents and so every inch of this building has to be directed toward that mission," he said.

Banerji said that the CHCC was built at a time when the CNMI population was around 21,000; the Commonwealth now has a population of over 60,000 individuals.

"We have outgrown our storage capabilities… and we're utilizing this space inside for direct patient care as much as we can," he said.

Muña's current priority is to provide more hospital services, reduce off-island travels for medical purposes, and bring quality care to the people of CNMI.

According to Banerji, CHCC has added more services for its patients in the last six months alone.

"Even before now, with the increased [number] of services that the CHCC has been bringing to the Commonwealth, we're bursting at the seams already," he said. "In order for us to continue to deliver high quality care that the patients want, we need as much space as we can possibly use for our providers of additional services."

Banerji said that they will meet with their service providers to discuss the additional space that will be created at CHC once PHI's lease is over. Some of the items for discussion are patient accessibility and services that are better situated with direct access to the population.

He thanked CHCC's director of Medical Affairs, Dr. John Tudela, and the other service providers for taking the lead in bringing in new physicians. Banerji said that there has been an increase in the recruitment of internal medicine doctors, pediatricians, and a podiatrist.

"A few months ago, we had an oncologist on islands, which we haven't had before and there are a variety of services that are being provided that we didn't have before… and we've expanded our footprint," he said.

PHI Pharmacy's lease at CHC will expire on Oct. 14, 2019.

SKYMARK

From Page 1

thority board chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds said yesterday that CPA is happy to see friends from Skymark resume services between Japan and the CNMI.

King-Hinds said they know that there are challenges that come with building the Japan market and establishing new regularly scheduled flights from any route to the CNMI post-Super Typhoon Yutu.

"Expanded air services to and from the CNMI, especially from Japan, is most welcome and we will do our best to provide them with any assistance to ensure their continued growth and success," she said.

Skymark is still working on having regular daily flights to Saipan.

Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Priscilla M. Iakopo earlier stated that they are "extremely excited" to see more direct air service from Japan to the CNMI being announced by Skymark for the summer season.

Iakopo said the revival of the Japan market remains a marketing and promotions priority for the MVA, as the market is critical to the growth of the CNMI's tourism economy.

Last March 22, Skymark made a historic touchdown on Saipan with a chartered B737-800 plane carrying 173 passengers, making it the first Japanese carrier to fly directly to Saipan since Japan Airlines withdrew from the CNMI in 2005.

Skymark officials then stated that their goal is to provide regular daily flights to Saipan during the summer of 2019.

DENGUE

From Page 1

for dengue.

"The dengue fever is transmitted by mosquitoes and, of the two types of mosquitoes that transmit the infection, only one is present in the CNMI," Travis said.

In yesterday's press conference, CHCC program managers and directors talked about their efforts in dealing with the case, with assurances that the chance of an outbreak in the CNMI is deemed to be low.

According to CHCC Medical Affairs director Dr. John Tudela, CHCC has contacted other medical providers on island about reinforcing that they get a comprehensive history on suspected cases and to rule out any suspicious cases.

Tudela assured that CHC is fully capable to take care of its patients. "The message here is truly just to be very careful when you travel by taking precautions, using protective barriers, and using insect repellants," he said.

Bureau of Environmental Health director John Tagabuel said the bureau received a report of a suspected case a couple of weeks ago. The team met with the individual and set up mosquito traps within 150 to 300 meters of the infected individual, and found that there have been a lot of mosquitoes due to the heavy rains from the past couple of days.

"With the news of the case being positive, we are increasing surveillance and outreach efforts about dengue fever," Tagabuel said.

Public Health Hospital Emergency Preparedness program director Warren Villagomez ensured that they are ramping up their surveillance and outreach efforts, including monitoring all critical sentinel sites and reaching out to the private clinics.

"We are monitoring by reaching out to Guam…so we can better prepare," Villagomez said.

Travis said that CHCC currently has dengue fever vaccines, but will only provide it if the use is approved. The vaccines can be used only on patients who have had dengue fever previously.

According to PHEPP epidemiologist Dr. Paul White, the Pacific is common for dengue fever, with islands in the South Pacific such as Tuvalu, New Caledonia, the Cook Islands, and the French Polynesia all having outbreaks. "It's to be entirely expected that people will have occasional traveler-associated dengue fever," White said.

Although there are currently no outbreaks of mosquito-borne illnesses in the CNMI, dengue fever outbreaks have been declared in the Philippines, Palau, and, most recently, Yap in the Federated States of Micronesia.

CNMI put up $25M to complete projects

The CNMI government has met its $25-million funding obligation to complete court-mandated projects that would enable the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to comply with Stipulated Order 2, according to deputy attorney general Lillian Ada Tenorio last Wednesday.

SO2 refers to court-mandated CUC projects that focus on oil issues and also apply to oil spills and the remediation of the contaminated power plants.

In the CNMI's grant funding status report filed before the U.S. District Court for the NMI, Tenorio disclosed that the CNMI government deposited $5 million into the Court Registry on Dec. 31, 2014. The registry was established by the federal court.

To meet the 2015 obligation of $2.8 million, Tenorio said the government filed with the court on Feb. 13, 2015, a notice of the U.S. Department of the Interior's authorization to proceed for funding SO2 projects for $2,648,082 for the pipeline project.

DOI then pledged an additional $151,918 for the CNMI.

A third notice of authorization to proceed meant the CNMI satisfied its funding obligation of providing $2.8 million for SO2 projects in 2015.

As for the 2016 obligation of $5 million, Tenorio said the CNMI filed its first notice of authorization to proceed from DOI for $3,887,161 on March 3, 2016.

A second notice of authorization to proceed from DOI for the sum of $382,225 for Engineering Environmental Management Company (EEMC) construction management was filed on March 9, 2016.

DOI then issued a third notice of authorization to proceed for the sum of $730,614 for the Tank 103 repair project.

For the 2017 obligation of $5 million, Tenorio said the government filed its notice of authorization from DOI for $777,000 on March 22, 2017.

The second notice of authorization to proceed for $4,019,000 was filed on March 28, 2017.

Tenorio said the third notice of authorization to proceed for the remaining $204,000 was filed on March 30, 2017.

Pertaining to the final $5 million funding for 2018, Tenorio said it was satisfied with the filing of the notice of authorization to proceed for $5 million.

The government filed the report pursuant to U.S. District Court for the NMI designated Judge David O. Carter's order.

(Ferdie de la Torre)

3-5 inches of rain possible through Monday

The Marianas should expect the foul weather to continue through early next week even as Typhoon Krosa continues its northwest to northeastward movement away from the region, according to the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam.

As of 1pm yesterday, Krosa was located by satellite near 22.2n 140.5e with sustained winds of 85 mph and drifting northwest at 3mph.

It was tracked 470 miles northwest of Alamagan, 440 miles northwest of Pagan, 410 miles northwest of Agrihan, and 595 miles northwest of Saipan.

While the typhoon is moving away and the strongest of the monsoon flow has shifted west of the Northern Islands, Krosa's expanding wind field will cause periodic monsoon surges to pass over the region this weekend.

Latest satellite data indicate winds of around 20 mph across the Northern Islands. The monsoon surges over the next several days will also occasionally bring stronger winds of 20 to 30 mph, with gusts possibly up to 35 or 40 mph.

NWS said the extent of heavy showers has decreased in the past day, but heavy showers will return at times in the coming days, with at least 3 to 5 inches of rain possible through Monday.

Recent data show that large monsoonal swell and wind waves of 11 to 15 feet remain in the region and dangerous surf of 12 to 17 feet along south- and west-facing reefs are still expected to affect the islands through the weekend. Surf will likely build to hazardous levels along north-facing reefs this weekend. The public is advised to stay away from reefs and shorelines, and inter-island travel by boat should be avoided until early next week.

NWS said residents on Alamagan, Pagan, and Agrihan should monitor the situation closely and heed instructions from the CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management.

Residents are encouraged to monitor the situation closely and maintain necessary precautionary measures for possible gusty winds and heavy rain and to stay informed on the latest statements or advisories.

With Krosa lingering in the region, HSEM also issued high surf and small craft advisories yesterday as a large west monsoon swell will continue to generate hazardous surf along west-facing reefs through Tuesday night. A long-period north swell from Krosa will also cause surf to build along north-facing reefs this weekend.

Mariners on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota should also expect seas of 9 to 12 feet to continue through tonight before building to between 10 and 13 feet over the weekend. Combined seas will begin to subside Monday and are expected to fall below hazardous levels of 10 feet late Monday night. Seas 10 feet or higher are expected to produce conditions hazardous to small craft.

Krosa- and weather-related advisories will be available through local media sources and NOAA weather radio broadcast on 162.5 megahertz, or call the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at 237-8000 or 664-8000, and for the Northern Islands to contact CNMI EOC State Warning Point at high frequency single side band radio on frequency 5.205.0. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

Emergency water supply interruption today, Friday

There is will be an emergency water service interruption for the areas of Airport Road in Dandan, Lower Dandan Homestead, As Lito, Fina Sisu, and portions of Koblerville and Tottotville today, August 9, from 8am to 4:30pm.

The purpose of the emergency water service interruption is to allow water operations personnel of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to perform repairs on a damaged 6-inch transmission water line that supplies water to the affected areas. CUC customers should expect restoration of water service soon after. As a result of the repair, a more reliable water system will be provided to the community.

CUC appreciates the public's understanding and patience throughout this repair and will continue to work diligently to minimize any inconvenience to its customers.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282). ***(PR)***

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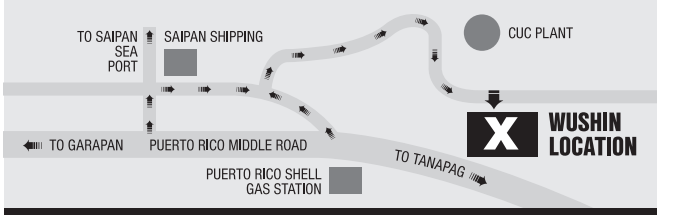

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Reg. $43 / Child $21 (Local $32 / Child $16)
AIR COFFEE LOUNGE
Open: 10am-6pm
Garden
Duo Band & Polynesian Dance Show
8:30pm - 10:30pm
For reservation or inquiry, please call: 670-237-2527 or E-mail: food.beverage@grandvrio-saipan.com

After 10 years, I Love Saipan now an iconic brand

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

The I Love Saipan building in Garapan always draws a crowd every afternoon because of indigenous dancers, a magic show, a man in a Batman costume, and all sorts of other come-ons to entice tourists to look at what they're selling inside. It even has a Black Friday sale that starts at midnight of Thanksgiving and is always a crowd-drawer. Ten years of that and I Love Saipan has managed to make itself an iconic brand in the CNMI and a must-stop for anyone on the hunt for good deals.

Alex Youn, president and owner of the store, recalls that he and his business partner, Allen Xie, weren't really thinking of opening a souvenir shop.

"I had this building built in Garapan 10 years ago and there was a tenant that came in and used the entire building. Unfortunately, something happened within their company that they had to give up the business and left with unpaid rent. The economy was so bad during those times due to airlines pulling out of Saipan, including Japan Air… so there we very low number of tourists," he said.

"Even with that, I decided to run my own business and invited my longtime friend, Allen, as a manufacturing partner who will make and bring in all the products. We started as a fashion store called La Moda Isla and we eventually converted the business into a souvenir store and changed the layout, design, and merchandising," he added.

The name I Love Saipan was borne out of Youn's observation that there were not a lot of photo opportunity spots on Saipan 10 years ago.

"I wanted tourists to have a place where, when they take a picture, others will know that they are on Saipan," he said. "I convinced my partner for us to use that line as a name for our store. So when we put that name on the building, people will stop and take a picture."

Since opening the store last Aug. 8, 2009, I Love Saipan overcome several challenges, Youn said. "We started at a time when the economy was low—the Japanese market was slowly shrinking [and] there were no Korean and Chinese markets yet. …We went through many kinds of troubles but we are still here."

That doesn't even include the challenges from typhoons Soudelor and Yutu and the CW issues.

"I think one of the effective things that we have been doing is

I Love Saipan head honchos Alex Youn and Allen Xie. BEA CABRERA

the people in the company work together. I really have good managers and team leaders and they really take care of the business even with all the disasters and issues. We now have a total of 120 employees—80 full-time and 40 part-time scattered in all the branches," he added.

I Love Saipan stores are located in Kensington Hotel in San Roque, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Paseo de Marianas, Beach Road in Garapan, and their outlet store on Middle Road.

Youn describes his main store in Garapan as a small department store because he combines fashion, chocolates, snacks, toys, vitamins, souvenirs, and more as merchandise.

"This way, we capture the local market and the tourists, which I believe is a good mixture," he said.

The I Love Saipan outlet store on Middle Road caters more to residents because they sell home and lifestyle products at affordable prices like furniture, kitchen wares, interior decor, make-up, and Daiso products.

"Originally, we bought the building to use it as a warehouse, but Typhoon Soudelor came and we brought in relief products like generators, ready-to-eat meals, etc., from the U.S. mainland and South Korea. Allen and I decided to keep the concept and we are happy to keep this store for the local market," he added.

Construction is currently ongoing in the Middle Road branch as they are adding 90 slots of parking at the back of the store to serve more customers. The new building will also be the new home of the I Love Saipan administration office.

Part of the success of I Love Saipan is that it keeps growing with the times, making products and services better each time. "We don't stop in trying to update—whether it is the look of the stores and products. We recently changed all the display racks and we are now in the process of putting up photos on the wall that promote the island life. We have improved our local food market and added Myungrang hotdogs from South Korea," Youn said.

"We also do private labeling with our chocolates from Hawaii and Belgium, mangoes, coconuts, and dried fruits. I think this is very important in promoting Saipan and it also helps us not to be in direct competition with other shops. …Right now, the I Love Saipan brand is becoming popular with locals because of the quality and with visitors because it is a good reminder that they were here," he added.

There will be an I Love Saipan anniversary sale in Garapan tomorrow, from 6am to noon, and the first 200 customers will get a dollar discount coupon on Myungrang hotdogs.

"This is our way of saying thank you to our customers," Youn said. "I Love Saipan will always be here for the community and, personally, I love Saipan because this is my home."

CPA to improve fence lines at Rota, Tinian airports

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Commonwealth Ports Authority board chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds said yesterday that the recent U.S. Department of Transportation's award of $478 million in airport infrastructure grants to 232 airports in 43 states, including the CNMI, will be used to improve fence lines at the airport on Rota and, potentially, on Tinian.

King-Hinds said that CPA has been very good about tracking and applying for federal grant opportunities for airport improvement projects. She credits CPA executive assistant/project manager Wendi L. Prater with being diligent about staying abreast of these opportunities and systematically working on submitting timely applications, which have proven to be beneficial to CPA.

King-Hinds

As to how much the CNMI will get out of the $474 million, King-Hinds said they are still waiting for confirmation on list of approved projects.

Typhoon Mangkhut in 2018 reportedly damaged approximately 80% of the fence line at the Benjamin Taisacan International Airport on Rota.

CPA believes the entire perimeter fence would need to be replaced in order for the airport to be compliant with regulations of the Federal Aviation Administration and the Transportation Security Administration.

CPA expects the fencing project to take two years to complete, at an estimated cost of $4 million.

As for the Tinian International Airport, CPA said the FAA has approved expediting the perimeter fence replacement project due to damage sustained from Super Typhoon Yutu in October.

The project entails replacing the entire perimeter fence except where the U.S. Department of Defense will be building its divert airfield.

CPA expects the fence replacement to take 15 months to complete, at an estimated cost of $2 million.

DOT said the $474 million is the fourth allotment of the total $3.18 billion in FAA's Airport Improvement Program funding for airports across the U.S.

According to U.S. Transportation Secretary Elaine L. Chao, infrastructure projects funded by these grants will advance safety, improve travel, generate jobs and provide other economic benefits for local communities.

NEW ROTARIANS
From left, Docomo Pacific general manager Pauline Johnson, Rotary Club of Saipan president Marcia Ayuyu, and Docomo Pacific enterprise manager Joe Torres. Johnson and Torres were inducted last Tuesday at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's Giovanni's restaurant as the newest members of the Rotary Club of Saipan.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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USCIS: 240-day extension only applies after USDOL requirements

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services clarified Tuesday that the 240-day extension only kicks in when the agency is in possession of the CW renewal petition.

In an email to *Saipan Tribune* through an agency representative, USCIS said that the 240-day extension only applies when the CW petition is pending a decision by the agency—meaning it only kicks in after an employer secures the U.S. Department of Labor's Temporary Labor Certificate, or TLC.

"An employee in CW-1 nonimmigrant status may lawfully continue working for up to 240 days after the previously approved CW-1 status expires if…the current employer files a CW-1 petition

» If USCIS rejects CW petition, 240-day extension not allowed

asking to continue a previously approved employment; the employer files the petition before the CW-1 status expires; and [if] the employer asks to extend the employee's stay in the petition," the USCIS representative told *Saipan Tribune*, adding that the 240-day extension would not take effect if USCIS had rejected the employer's petition.

The 240-day extension, according to the representative, begins on the date that the CW visa expires.

"The period continues until USCIS issues a decision on the petition or until 240 days after the CW-1 status expires, whichever comes first. The terms and conditions of the employment must remain the same as those previously approved." the agency representative said.

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce noted in a previous statement that they wished to seek clarity on the new CW petition regulations in relation to the enactment of the CNMI Workforce Act of 2018. As of publication, USCIS has not published new regulations on the legislation.

According to a previous Chamber statement, businesses are experiencing delays from the USDOL side of requirements for their CW petitions.

"…Businesses are telling us getting the TLC is taking about three to four weeks," the Chamber noted. "We have only heard of a handful of companies that have received a TLC back, and they are only receiving TLCs for very few of their applications submitted. Some companies are at this step and have been waiting more than three weeks to a month for this TLC."

The Chamber also noted that they have not learned of a single employer who has already completed the USDOL side of CW renewals. One employer reportedly submitted 80 TLC applications and only received one confirmed TLC back, raising fears in the private sector that they would eventually have to send their CW employees home come fiscal year 2020 this Sept. 30, 2019. ***(Erwin Encinares)***

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STOCK#G5595082
FWD, 1.8 L 4CYL, AUTO
Est. Mileage: 24,820, Color: SILVER

$16,695
2017 KIA SPORTAGE LX
STOCK # H7209426
FWD, 4 CYL 2.4 GDI. AUTO
Est. Mileage: 22,000, Color: Bronze

$17,495
2017 MAZDA M3 G. TOURING
STOCK # H1118057
FWD, SKYACTIV-G, 2.5L, 6-Spd SKYACTIV-Drv
Est. Mileage: 17,000, Color: WHITE

$19,495
2013 NISSAN PATHFINDER
STOCK#DC676044
4WD, V6, 3.5 Liter, Automatic, CVT
Est. Mileage: 27,100, Color: WHITE

$19,995
2016 FORD TRANSIT CONNECT CARGO
STOCK#G1285876
FWD, 4-Cyl, 2.5L, Auto, 6-Spd
Est. Mileage: 12000, Color: WHITE

$19,995
2014 FORD EXPLORER SPORT
STOCK#EGA61572
2WD, Ecoboost, Automatic, CVT
Est. Mileage: 18,302, Color: BLUE

$19,995
2015 NISSAN MURANO S
STOCK#FN237761
FWD, V6, 3.5 Liter, Automatic, CVT
Est. Mileage: 22540, Color: SILVER

$20,795
2015 NISSAN QUEST SV
STOCK#F9126235
FWD, V6, 3.5 Liter, Automatic, CVT
Est. Mileage: 22,600, Color: SILVER

$20,995
2017 NISSAN ROGUE SV
STOCK#HW381082
FWD, 4 CYL 2.5 L, AUTO CVT
Est. Mileage: 28,244, Color: GREEN

$21,595
2017 KIA SPORTAGE LX
STOCK# H7293333
AWD, 4 CYL 2.4 GDI, AUTO
Est. Mileage: 8,200, Color: PEARL SNOW WHITE

$21,995
2017 HONDA ACCORD LX
STOCK#HA142666
FWD, 4 CYL I-Vtec 2.4L, AUTO
Est. Mileage: 7,888, Color: WHITE

$21,995
2017 TOYOTA RAV 4 SE
STOCK#HD095946
2WD, 4-Cyl, 2.5 L, Automatic
Est. Mileage:23,240, Color: BURGUNDY

$22,995
2017 HONDA HRV EX
STOCK#HM727514
2WD, 4-Cyl, i-VTEC, 1.8 Liter, Automatic
Est. Mileage: 6,588, Color: MULBERRY

$23,995
2017 NISSAN FRONTIER CC S
STOCK # HN701586
4WD, V6 4.0 L, AUTO,
Est. Mileage: 25,600, Color: SILVER.

$23,995
2016 KIA CADENZA
STOCK # G5200547
FWD, GDI, 3.3 Liter, 6-Spd OD Sprtmtc
Est. Mileage: 15,455, Color: GRAY

$23,995
2016 KIA CADENZA PREMIUM
STOCK # G5200548
FWD, V6, GDI, 3.3 Liter, 6-Spd OD Sprtmtc
Est. Mileage: 14,688, Color: WHITE

$24,995
2017 KIA SEDONA EX
STOCK # H6343505
FWD, V6, 3.3 Liter, Auto, 6-Spd OD Sportmatic
Est. Mileage: 32428, Color: GRAY

$26,995
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STOCK#GS118555
2WD, V6 3.5 L, AUTO
Est. Mileage: 27,500, Color: SILVER

$27,495
2016 FORD F- 150 XL REG CAB
STOCK# GKF37860
RWD, 3.5L V6, Automatic
Est. Mileage: 6,800, Color: Oxford White

$27,995
2017 NISSAN FRONTIER CC PRO 4X
STOCK#HN704145
4WD, V6 4.0 L, AUTO
Est. Mileage: 32,400, Color: RED

$28,995
2018 NISSAN FRONTIER CC SV LB
STOCK# JN767358
4WD, V6 4.0 L, AUTO
Est. Mileage: 14,700, Color: SILVER

$31,495
2018 HONDA ACCORD TOURING
STOCK#JA084004
FWD, i-VTEC Turbo 1.5 L, AUTO 10 SPEED
Est. Mileage: 12,118, Color: GRAY

$32,995
2019 KIA SEDONA EX
STOCK#K6506253
FWD, V6, 3.3 Liter, Auto, 6-Spd OD, Sportmatic,
Est. Mileage: 890, Color: AURORA BLACK

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$625 fine for Outer Cove litter

On Wednesday, July 31, 2019, the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality's Division of Environmental Quality received an anonymous phone call complaint about illegal dumping of litter at the Outer Cove Marina near the American Memorial Park.

DEQ litter control apprehending officers responded to the complaint the same day. DEQ litter officers found a total of seven black trash bags, some that were left exposed, and a cardboard box with various household trash (i.e., cans, bottles, napkins, plastic forks and spoons). Inside the trash bags were trolling fish lines, beer cans, plastic utensils, paper plates, paper cups, fish bones (food had been rotting and maggot larvae were present), and soda cans. An estimated amount of 20-25 lbs of trash was found.

The violation was determined to be an intentional violation with greater than 3 lbs of solid waste illegally disposed; it was the violators' first violation. Penalty would initially be $250; however, because the illegal act was committed near the shoreline, a "sensitive area," a multiplier of 2.5 is applied to the base penalty, making the final penalty $625.

Help us maintain our marinas by simply disposing of garbage in proper containers. Since not all picnic sites/beaches have trash bins, plan on taking your garbage with you. ***(PR)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

OVR closed on Aug. 15

The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation office will be closed for professional development on Thursday, Aug. 15, 2019. For concerns or matters that require immediate attention, call (670) 287-6538. ***(PR)***

Open house at Saipan airport

The Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport will be holding an open house meeting on Aug. 21, 2019, from 6pm to 8pm, at the Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting Building located at 1 Fadang at the Saipan airport. The open house will discuss the ongoing airport master plan study. The consultant team will also be available to answer questions.

Should you require additional information, contact Wendi L. Prater, executive assistant/project manager, or Saipan airport manager William Camacho at (670) 237-6500. ***(PR)***

Calling student writers in the CNMI

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library is hosting a Student Writers Mystery Adventure on Saturday, Aug. 10, 2019 from 1pm to 4pm. It's free and open to all students of any age. The focus is on talking about, planning, and writing mysteries. Prizes are also at stake. ***(PR)***

Mariana Guide recertification deadline

Official Marianas Guides who applied for certification prior to June 1, 2019, are reminded to submit to the Marianas Visitors Authority evidence of completion of training at Northern Marianas College by Aug. 7, 2019, in order to receive their official badges. Applications that are 90 days past renewal date by Aug. 7, 2019, will be voided and paperwork and fees will need to be resubmitted. Tour operators are also reminded to submit quarterly employee listings to the MVA. ***(MVA)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 19-010

Opening Date: Wednesday, August 7, 2019
Closing Date: Tuesday, August 13, 2019

CHIEF ENGINEER, P.E.
(Notice of Closure)

DUTIES: The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is a government utility providing power and water utilities to the islands of Saipan, Tinian and Rota and wastewater utility to the island of Saipan. The incumbent of this position is under the overall supervision of the Deputy Executive Director (Water and Waste Water) or his/her designee. The duties and responsibilities are as follows: Coordinates and meets with other divisional sections and corporate divisions to coordinate activities and projects. Supervises engineering support staff to include: prioritizing and assigning work, conducting performance evaluations; ensuring staffs are trained; and, making, hiring, termination, and disciplinary recommendations. Performs project management activities to include preparing reports, memorandums and recommendations; developing scope of work, providing technical reviews; surveying for projects, evaluating proposals, monitoring project process, approving payment, and, recommending award of projects. Prepares engineering designs, plans and specifications, collects date and performs research. Troubleshoots systems and equipment. Reviews work performed by engineers. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level as required by CUC and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). CUC is under a Stipulated order of the United States of America vs. the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Civil Case 08-0051 filed in the U.S. District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands.

LOCATION : **Water & Wastewater, Engineering Division, SAIPAN, Northern Mariana Islands USA.** (Saipan has a population of about 50K. It is adjacent to Asia and about a 3-hour flight south of Tokyo. It is about 100 miles north of the US Territory of Guam)

SALARY : Starting: $100,000.00 Per Annum (Commensurate with Qualifications and Experience, Exempt). If hired from outside the Northern Mariana Islands, terms and conditions of the relocation cost will be negotiated. However, the accommodations shall not exceed $5,000 for moving to the islands and shall not exceed $5,000 for moving away from the islands.

CONTRACT: Two (2) years, subject to renewal
POSITIONS: One (1)

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: Master's Degree in Civil, Mechanical, or Electrical Engineering. Registration as a Professional Engineer pursuant to the National Council of Engineering Examiners standards in either the civil, mechanical or electrical branch; Experience of ten (10) or more years as a professional engineer. **Demonstrate the following:** Proven management and communication skills; Demonstrated ability to lead, motivate, and develop staff; Competency and proficiency in overseeing major drinking water and wastewater systems during the periods of planning,, design, construction, and operation of drinking water systems' production, treatment, and distribution, and in wastewater treatment, collection and conveyance systems. **Knowledge of:** Safe work practices; Applicable Federal, State, and/or Local laws, rules and regulations; Project management principles; Mathematical concepts; Construction principles; Engineering principles and practices. **Skill in:** Monitoring and evaluating staff; Prioritizing and assigning work to staff; Managing multiple projects; Interpreting and applying Federal, State, and/or Local laws, rules and regulations; Interpreting drawings; Preparing a variety of technical report and/or documentation; Presenting technical information to management, public groups, and other related individuals; Reading and interpreting scaled drawings; Preparing specifications, plans, and cost estimates; Conducting studies; Using computers and related software applications; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Must have a U.S. driver's license. Applicants maybe tested. Subject to a pre-employment drug screening.

You may submit your CUC Employment Application and/or resume at the Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota can drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration office.
Application and resume can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-19-012, Rev. 1

ISLAND WIDE WATER METER INSTALLATION, SAIPAN

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Island Wide Water Meter Installation, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA).

This Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity work consists of the installation of new service saddles, corporation stops, and PVC service lines from the CUC main to the meter, proper sizing of existing service lines, installation of a water meter on non-metered customers, relocation of existing CUC water meters from private property to public easement, various exploration work, abandonment of unnecessary service lines, removal of existing manifold systems, and as required, installation of new service lines from the meter to the house plumbing.

The Bid Package may be picked-up, upon receipt of a non-refundable payment from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check, or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) on an electronic disk file; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on **August 1, 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Seven (7) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-19-012, Rev.1, Island Wide Water Meter Installation, Saipan" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **9:00 AM (ChST) on August 16, 2019**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on August 2, 2019 to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Nicolette Villagomez, Water/Wastewater Engineer – via email nicolette.villagomez@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, Purchasing Technician, Senior – via email christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-19-031

SAN VICENTE WATER TANK REPLACEMENT PROJECT

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified vendors for the Construction of San Vicente Water Tank Replacement Project in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project consist of removal of existing 0.5 million gallon steel tank, yard piping, concrete vaults, and all other appurtenances; one (1) additional boring at the center of the existing tank; design and construction of the new 0.75 million gallon pre-stressed concrete water tank and foundation; installation of new water tank piping, valve vaults, control valves, and other appurtenances; construction of new perimeter security fencing and facility lighting; construction of new asphalt concrete access road; and installation of temporary storage tanks at the San Vicente Tank site. The project also includes installation of PSV station with flowmeter at the Dandan Tank site. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in 365 calendar days from date of award of contract.

The project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **August 21, 2019** at 10:00 AM (ChST) at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the bid MUST be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-IFB-19-031, San Vicente Water Tank Replacement Project"* to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 9:00 AM (ChST) September 6, 2019**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on **August 22, 2019** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Kirztie Reyes, Water Division, Jr. Engineer via email address kirztie.reyes@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC P&S, Purchasing Technician, Senior – christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

WILLIAM GILMORE
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN, JR.
Purchasing Administrator

Guam AutoSpot adds to TOC hole-in-one prizes

Add one more new vehicle to the impressive list of prizes that can be won at the 24th Annual Governor's Tournament of Champions on Aug. 10 and 11, 2019.

Guam Auto Spot will be participating in this year's golf tournament by offering a brand new 2019 Buick Encore as a hole-in-one prize.

"We are excited for Guam Auto Spot's support this year as a sponsor," said Ben Babauta, TOC tournament director. "The company joins other great companies who are helping to raise funds for our community."

The 24th Governor's Tournament of Champions will be played at the Laolao Bay Golf and Resort's east and west courses on Aug. 10 and 11, 2019. The TOC tournament fee is $200.

For more information about sponsorship opportunities for the 2019 TOC, contact Marie Sablan at 236-2572 or Amanda Ramon at 236- 2530. For player information and to download the registration form, visit www.tocSaipan.com. ***(PR)***

A brand new 2019 Buick Encore offered by Guam Auto Spot is just one of the many prizes that can be won at the 24th Governor's Tournament of Champions on Aug. 10 and 11, 2019. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Pacifica offers TOC golfers $5K hole in one prize

Pacifica Insurance Underwriters staff and tournament committee members pose with a $5,000 check for a hole-in-one cash prize for the 24th Governor's Tournament of Champions. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Add $5,000 more to the already impressive list of prizes that may be won at the 24th Annual Governor's Tournament of Champions.

Pacific Insurance Underwriters announced yesterday that it is participating in the golf tournament by sponsoring the large cash award as a hole-in-one prize for this weekend's two-day tournament.

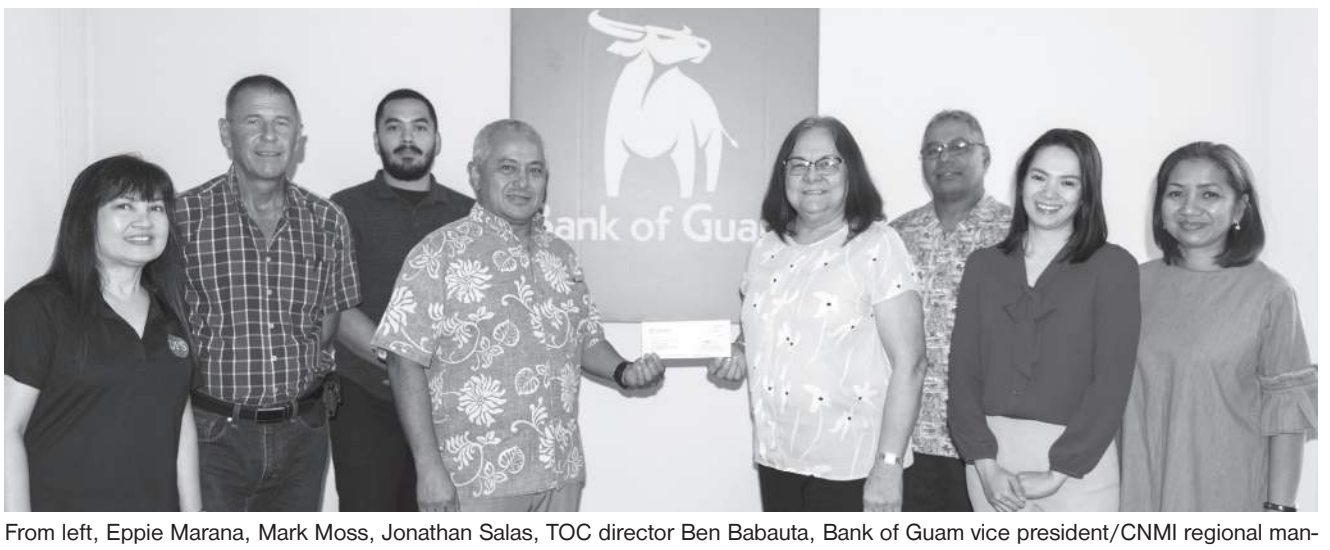
"Proceeds from the Governor's TOC fundraiser golf tournaments have been used toward countless beautification projects throughout the CNMI," said Shirley Sablan, president and general manager of Pacifica Insurance. "Let's continue to support its good cause."

"The Tournament of Champions credits its long-standing success to the generosity of companies like Pacifica Insurance," said Ben Babauta, tournament director.

Other hole-in-one prizes are a new 2019 Mazda CX-5 Sport and a 2019 Mitsubishi Eclipse Cross donated by Triple J Motors, a Nissan Frontier donated by Joeten Motors, one year free golf donated by Laolao Bay Golf & Resort, among other prizes.

The 24th Governor's Tournament of Champions will be played at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort's east and west courses on Aug. 10 and 11, 2019. The TOC tournament fee is $200. ***(PR)***

Calvo's Insurance donates $1,500 to the 24th Governor's Tournament of Champions. From left, Calvo's Insurance general manager Eli Buenaventura, Jonathan Salas, Calvo's Insurance representative Lou Camacho, Eppie Marana, Rochelle Tomokane, Marie Sablan, and Calvo's Insurance representative Sandy Tse. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



From left, Eppie Marana, Mark Moss, Jonathan Salas, TOC director Ben Babauta, Bank of Guam vice president/CNMI regional manager Marcie Tomokane, Bank of Guam AVP/ Saipan branch manager Larry Phillip, Rochelle Tomokane, and Marida Pensader pose with a $2,500 check from Bank of Guam for this year's 24th Governor's Tournament of Champions. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Marpac donates $2,500 to the 24th Governor's Tournament of Champions. From left, Marpac Beverage & Tobacco sales manager James Lee, TOC committee members Rochelle Tomokane, Eppie Marana, Jonathan Salas, Marie Sablan, Marpac resident manager Guy Pudney, and Marpac marketing coordinator Heather Popa. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Marianas Variety signs on as a silver sponsor of the 24th Governor's Tournament of Champions, with a donation of $2,500. From left, *Marianas Variety* representatives Sally Ramos, Noemi Borromeo, Jeanette Sarabia, Tristine Ada, and TOC committee members Marie Sablan, Jonathan Salas, Rochelle Tomokane, and Eppie Marana. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Chamber to employers: Approach Kilili's office

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce is urging employers to approach Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan's (Ind-Saipan) office in Susupe if they need help with their CW renewal process and application.

In an email sent to members last Wednesday, the Chamber urged employers to fill out a casework consent form at Sablan's office in Susupe so that the office could help follow up their on their CW applications or Temporary Labor Certification, or TLC, applications at U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and the U.S. Department of Labor respectively.

"…The CNMI DOL has had weekly calls with the USDOL to discuss the questions and state problems CNMI businesses are having while filing. The response from USDOL is that they have to follow the intent of the law, but the CNMI DOL, Saipan Chamber, and our congressional office will continue to advocate on our behalf to try and shorten and simplify the process," the email stated.

The Chamber said it also met with the U.S. House Natural Resources staff delegation during their visit to the CNMI last week and also had a separate meeting with Sablan at his Susupe office.

The Chamber urged its members to submit their questions to CNMI DOL via email at documents@marianaslabor.net or to the Chamber at executive@saipanchamber.com so those concerns or questions could be to forwarded to the appropriate federal agencies.

Employers are also urged to open a case with Sablan's office in Susupe to help advocate to USDOL and USCIS on the employer's behalf.

The Chamber told *Saipan Tribune* that emailing Sablan's office at kilili@mail.house.gov for a consent form is the easiest way to collect the consent form.

"…We thank the congressional office for letting us know of this process so that they can assist us," Chamber president Velma Palacios told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview.

"…As a Chamber, we want to help the businesses in any way possible, but they also have to…bring up their cases to [Sablan's] office. If they don't fill up [the consent forms] they wouldn't know [how to help]," she added, saying that the Chamber can only represent the CNMI's private sector for general concerns but for more technical and unique problems, she urges employers to approach Sablan's office.

Remembering WWII Navajo code talkers at AMP

In 1982, President Ronald Regan declared Aug. 14 National Navajo Code Talkers Day. During the Pacific War, from 1942 to 1945, Navajo code talkers participated in every U.S. Marine assault. These men devised an unbreakable code in their native language that allowed the United States to transmit vital wartime messages.

In honor of these brave men and to remember their ingenuity and sacrifices, American Memorial Park is hosting two events:

■ **Reading Rangers: *The Unbreakable Code* by Sara Hoagland**

For: Kindergarten through 4th Grade

When: Aug. 14, 9am to noon

Reading Rangers is a youth reading program that highlights a variety of books that touch on the park's mission to honor the American and Marianas people who gave their lives during the Marianas Campaign of World War II. Children will be guided through *The Unbreakable Code* and have the opportunity to participate in fun and educational activities. Pre-registration is not required. To participate, meet at the American Memorial Park Visitor Center.

■ **True Whispers: The Story of the Navajo Code Talkers**

When: Aug. 14, from 5:30pm to 6:30pm, at the American Memorial Park Visitor Center Theater.

True Whispers is a moving testament to the Navajo code talkers and their wartime contributions. The film combines breathtaking images of the Navajo reservation with original music, World War II footage, archival photos, historical re-enactments, and interviews with Navajo historians and leaders of the Navajo Nation. *True Whispers* is produced by Valhalla Motion Pictures and Red-Horse Native Productions.

For more information on events at American Memorial Park, contact Lead Ranger Brooke Nevitt at 234-7207 or 2020 or via email at brooke_nevitt@nps.gov. ***(NPS)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW19-IFB-015

TINIAN ROAD REPAIR AND ASPHALT OVERLAY PROJECT

Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for **Tinian Road Repair and Asphalt Overlay Project, Tinian** Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after **August 08, 2019** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars ($100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Teasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations currently in effect."

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITUES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **August 23, 2019**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room **Tinian Office.** The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **August 28, 2019** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid.

The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgment of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/9838 no later than ten (10) Calendar days before the scheduled bid opening.**

Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW19-IFB-015"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m. local time September 9, 2019**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **10:00 a.m. local time, September 9, 2019**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to **procurement@cnmidof.net.** For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **September 9, 2019** and the BID documents must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **September 18, 2019**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at **10:00 a.m. local time, September 19, 2019**. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **10:00 a.m. local time, on September 9, 2019**.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars **($25,000.00)** a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. **Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashiers check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety requiring approval of the Attorney General must be pre-approved prior to bid submission.** Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations **§70-30.3-245**. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:
1) Cash
2) US Gov't Securities
3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is **One Hundred Fifty (150) calendar days** upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed at the rate of **One Hundred (US$100.00)** for each and every day the work is delayed beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

CASIANO BOSTRE
Acting Secretary of Public Works

EDWIN P. ALDAN
Mayor of Tinian

FRACISCO C. AGUON
Acting Director of Procurement & Supply

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM - OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Caller Box 10007
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 664-2375
Fax: (670) 664-2408

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
FOR THE MONITORING SERVICES FOR THE POST CLOSURE OF THE PUERTO RICO DUMPSITE IN GARAPAN, SAIPAN

RFP19-GOV-097

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Capital Improvement Office (CIP), (collectively, "Commonwealth") are soliciting sealed proposals from qualified contractors to provide **Labor, Material and Equipment for the MONITORING SERVICES of the Post Closure Maintenance of the Puerto Rico Dumpsite (Now called Governor Eloy S. Inos Peace Park)** in Garapan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, currently in effect, and with the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (NMIAC) §70-30-3-725 Gratuities and Kickbacks and §70.30.3-730 Prohibition Against Contingent Fees. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the CNMI.

The project package is available at the Governor's CIP Office, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan. A pre-proposal meeting regarding this project will be held on Wednesday, August 5, 2019, 10:00 a.m. ChST, at the CIP Office in Capitol Hill. Questions regarding the Request for Proposals shall be addressed to Ms. Elizabeth S. Balajadia, P.E., Project Manager, CIP Office, at esb.cip@gmail.com or facsimile (670) 664-2408 no later than 4:00 p.m., ChST, August 7, 2019.

The total proposal length shall not exceed 15 pages in length. A contractor that submits a proposal as a prime contractor cannot submit as a subcontractor on another proposal. However, as a subcontractor, a company may be included in multiple proposals by different contractors.

Proposals will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

1.	Qualifications and experience on similar projects	30%
2.	Past Performance with CNMI Projects	30%
3.	Cost	40%

Performance time for completion of this project will be a two year contract with an option to renew for six months upon issuance of notice to proceed. Contractors will be assessed $200/day for any delays in the monitoring and reporting to BECQ and USEPA based on the Post Closure Maintenance Plan prepared by GHD Inc., May 2014.

Discussions shall be conducted with at least the top 3 ranked contractors. After a selection is made, negotiations will be conducted with the highest qualified contractor to determine the final fair and reasonable price of the contract for the work to be performed. The successful proposers will be subjected to a responsibility and responsiveness determination in compliance with Section 3-301 of the CNMI Procurement Regulations.

Proposals must be sealed and marked RFP19-GOV-097 "To provide Labor, Materials and Equipment for the MONITIORING SERVICES OF THE POST CLOSURE MAINTENANCE OF PUERTO RICO DUMPSITE" in Garapan, Saipan. For proposers within the CNMI, one original and three (3) copies of the proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply located at the former Emergency Management Office, Building No. 1301, Ascencion Drive, Capitol Hill on Saipan no later than 10:00 a.m. ChST, August 19, 2019. Proposers located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of intent to propose. Notices of intent to propose must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m., ChST, August 19, 2019 and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@cnmidof.net.

For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and three (3) copies of the sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than August 19, 2019 and must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than August 28p, 2019. Failure to submit the required number of copies of the proposal may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

BREACH OF ETHICAL STANDARDS
(To be part of Solicitation for Quotes, ITBs and RFPs)

• Gratuities. It shall be a breach of ethical standards for any person to offer, give or agree to give any employee or former employee, or for any employee or former employee to solicit, demand, accept or agree to accept from another person, a gratuity or an offer of employment in connection with any decision, approval, disapproval, recommendation, preparation of any part of a program requirement or a purchase request, influencing the content of any specification or procurement standard, rendering of advice, investigation, auditing or in any other advisory capacity in any proceeding or application, request for ruling, determination, claim or controversy, or other particular matter, pertaining to any program requirement or a contract or subcontract or to any solicitation or proposal therefore. NMIAC Section 70-30.3-725(a).

• Kickbacks. It shall be a breach of ethical standards for any payment, gratuity or offer of employment to be made by or on behalf of a subcontractor under a contract to the prime contractor or higher tier subcontractor or any person associated therewith as an inducement for the award of subcontractor or order. NMIAC Section 70-30.3-725(b)

• Contingent Fees. It shall be a breach of ethical standards for a person to be retained, or to retain a person, to solicit or secure government contracts upon an agreement or understanding for a commission, percentage, brokerage or contingent fee, except for retention of bona fide employees or bona fide established commercial selling agencies for the purpose of securing business. NMIAC Section 70-30.3-730.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfection in any proposal if, in its opinion to do so would be in the best interests of the CNMI government. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI government.

Arnold I. Palacios, Acting Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Herman S. Sablan
Director of Procurement & Supply

Honolulu authorities investigate arsons at 3 Waikiki hotels

By AUDREY McAVOY and CALEB JONES
ASSOCIATED PRESS

In this Monday, Aug. 5, 2019, photo, people stand on a street in Waikiki after a fire at the Waikiki Beachcomber by Outrigger hotel in Honolulu. AP

HONOLULU (AP)—Honolulu police said Wednesday surveillance video recorded images of the same man at three different high-rise hotels near Waikiki Beach where fires were intentionally set in recent days.

Two rooms were burglarized while guests were evacuated from one of the hotels, the 25-story Waikiki Beachcomber by Outrigger.

Surveillance video at the hotel showed a man carrying at least two backpacks similar to the ones taken in the burglary.

The fire, which broke out near a storage room on the 14th floor, caused $1.8 million in damage.

Police are asking for the public's help in identifying the man. Images showed him wearing a baseball hat, mustache and goatee.

No one was injured in the fires.

Each fire began at night in a hallway on a floor with guest rooms, said Honolulu Fire Department Captain Scot Seguirant.

Firefighters have referred the case to police for investigation.

Police wouldn't say if more officers were being sent to patrol the popular tourist area. An Associated Press request to interview Honolulu Police Chief Susan Ballard was declined.

The first fire caused $4,000 in damage Sunday at the Alohilani Resort.

The third fire broke out on the 28th floor of the 38-story Hilton Hawaiian Grand Waikikian on Tuesday.

Hotel security put out the flames with a fire extinguisher after it caused $10,000 in damage, police said.

Matt Kim of San Francisco, who is visiting the islands with his family, said he saw the road to the Grand Waikikian was closed Tuesday but had no idea there had been a case of arson.

"That's pretty scary, especially security wise," said Kim, who is staying at the sprawling Hilton complex in Waikiki.

He said he would like to see more foot patrols around the area but doesn't plan to change hotels unless officials recommend he do so.

Hilton spokesman Nigel Glennie said the resort doesn't publicly disclose security measures as a matter of policy. But he said the hotel has reviewed the incident and will make any appropriate changes.

Marc and Mariam Walkowski of Grand Rapids, Michigan, were sitting outside the Alohilani hotel on Wednesday, but didn't know there had been a case of arson there three days earlier.

The couple, who is staying on the 16th floor of a nearby Courtyard Marriott, had walked by the Waikiki Beachcomber by Outrigger on Monday.

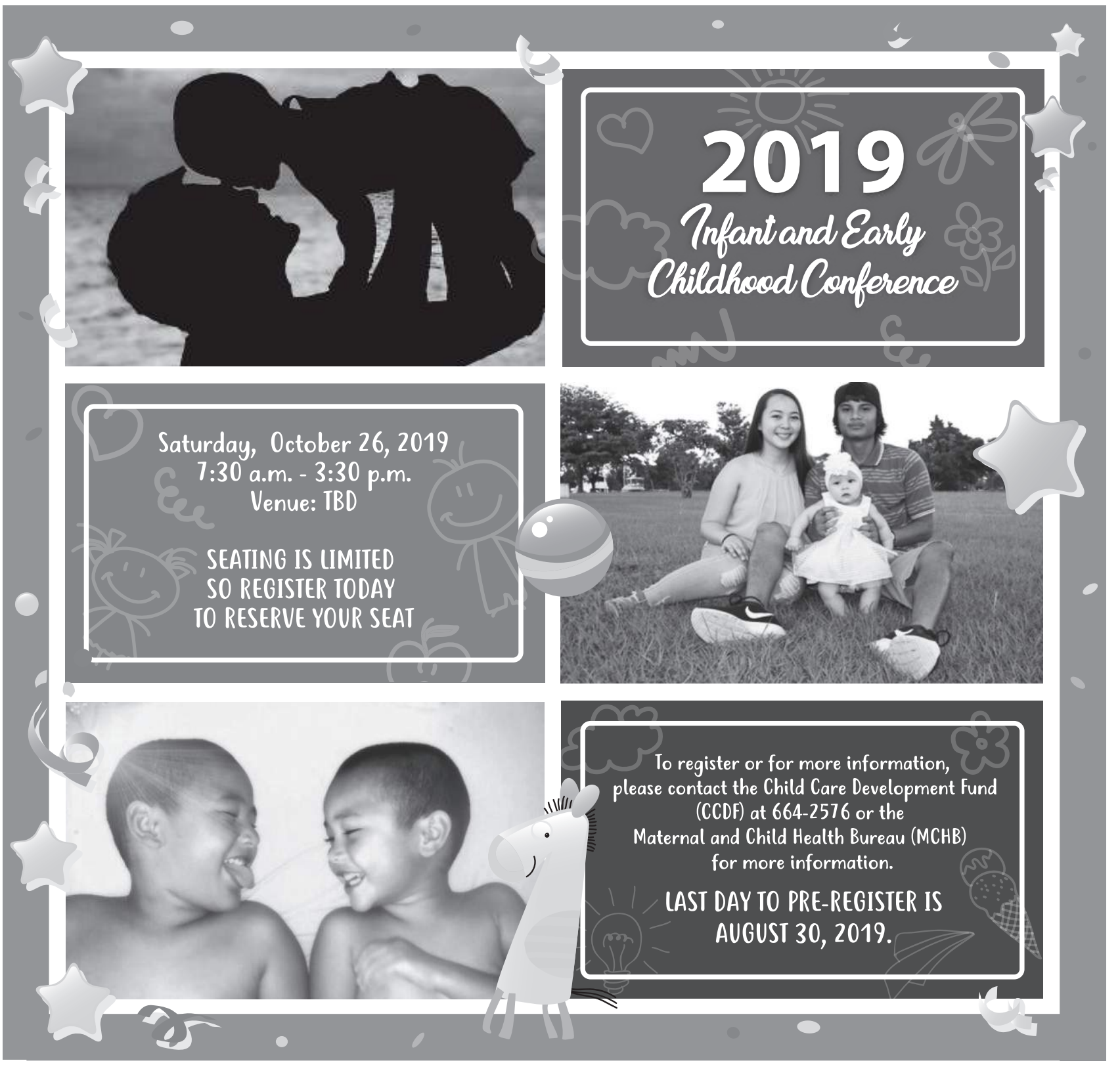
"The streets were pretty flooded with tourists and people from the hotel," Marc Walkowski said. "It appeared that they evacuated nearly everybody."

People were taking photos and video and were calm, he said.

"There's a lot of hotels in this area so I'm not concerned that ours would be a target, but you never know," he said. "We weren't aware that it was arson, we assumed it was an accident."

His wife said they don't plan to do anything differently because of the fires. They'll be careful and not dwell too much on the negative.

"Obviously it's Hawaii and we're enjoying that," she said.


2019
Infant and Early Childhood Conference
Saturday, October 26, 2019
7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Venue: TBD
SEATING IS LIMITED
SO REGISTER TODAY
TO RESERVE YOUR SEAT
To register or for more information,
please contact the Child Care Development Fund
(CCDF) at 664-2576 or the
Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB)
for more information.
LAST DAY TO PRE-REGISTER IS
AUGUST 30, 2019.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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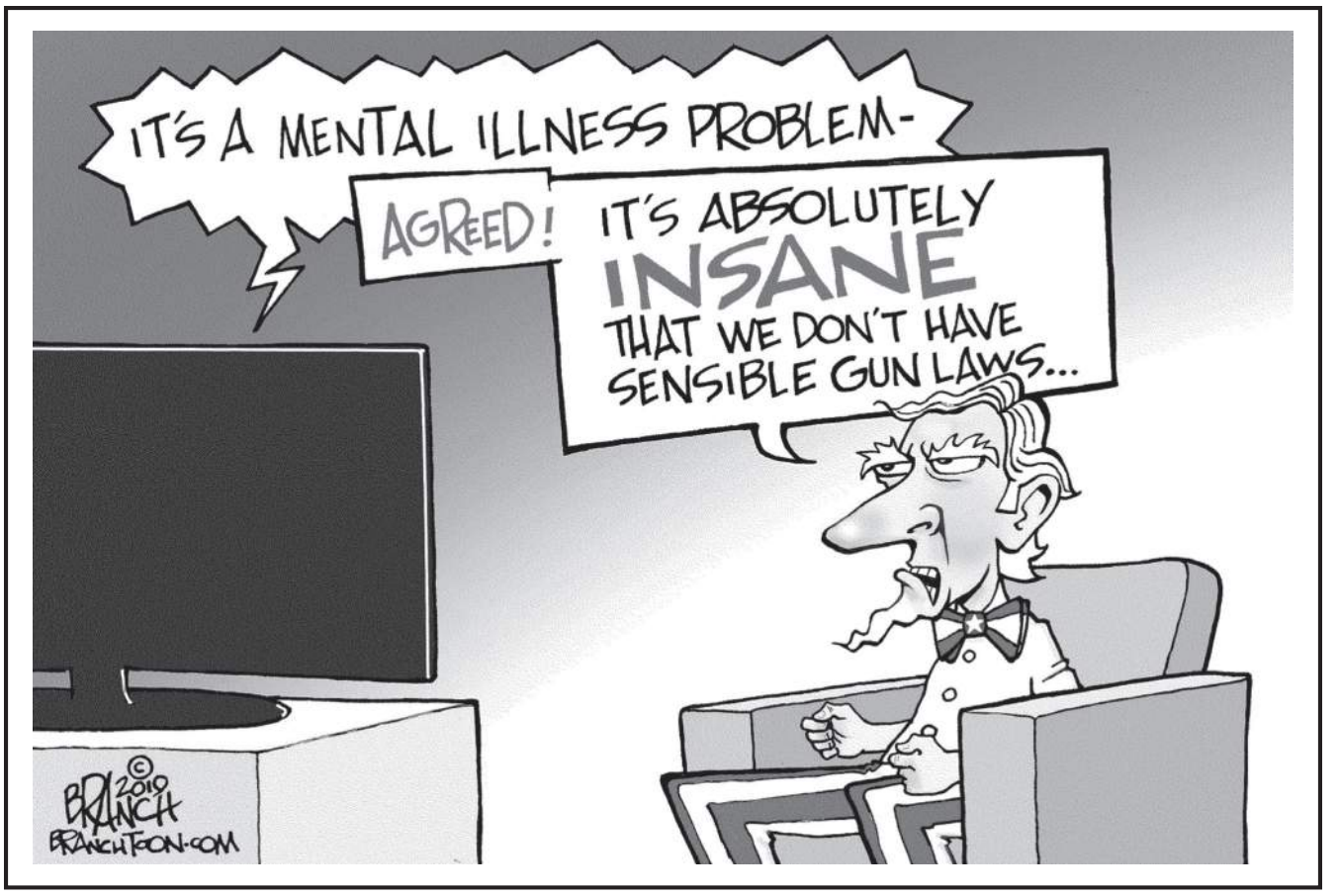


EDITORIAL

Washington's love affair with Big Tech is officially over

For months, President Donald Trump has been verbally assaulting the country's biggest internet companies. Last week, the administration replaced rhetoric with action, as the Federal Trade Commission slapped Facebook with a record-breaking penalty for privacy violations and the Justice Department announced a broad antitrust inquiry into "market-leading online platforms."

These are steps in the right direction. But unless Congress passes a law giving internet users real privacy protections, including the right to control which bits of personal information can be collected and shared, consumers will remain vulnerable to companies like Facebook that collect and exploit their data.

The FTC case against Facebook illustrates the problem. The agency accused the social media giant eight years ago of making unfair and deceptive use of personal information, and the company signed a consent agreement in 2012 that was supposed to clamp down on these practices. But Facebook has been rocked by multiple privacy-related scandals in the years since, most notably the revelation that Cambridge Analytica had collected personal data surreptitiously from tens of millions of Facebook users in order to build profiles to help target political advertising. So much for deterrence.

Nor did the fine that Facebook agreed to pay Wednesday cause the company any real pain, even though it was almost 20 times larger than any privacy penalty the agency had levied in the past. Notably, the agency did not seek any fundamental changes in Facebook's core business, which is monetizing its users' personal information through highly targeted advertising. Hours after the $5-billion settlement was revealed, Facebook reported almost $17 billion in revenue for the second quarter alone, sending its shares nearly to an all-time high.

The Justice Department's antitrust probe is about competition, not privacy, and its potential effects are more significant. Google, Facebook, Amazon and Apple all have used their dominance in one (or more) markets to help them compete in others, warping the playing field and driving out smaller rivals. The usual rebuttal from the tech giants has been that their moves benefit consumers—for example, by providing free services. But choking off competition hurts consumers in the long run by reducing innovation and extracting higher prices in one form or another. That's why it's encouraging to see the Justice Department move forward on this, although we can't help but notice that its targets all seem to be companies on the president's enemies list.

(c) 2019 *Los Angeles Times*

The ugly

A mud fence

With all due respect to Rep. Janet Maratita, her idea to choke another 5% out of tourists at a time when we desperately need them to come here is not her finest thinking. There are two major problems with this ill-conceived bit of chicanery:

First, HB 21-67 deincentivizes visitors from coming here. Most of them compare prices online before deciding where to book their vacation and a 20% tax on their hotel room is a big turn-off.

Second, the 15% hotel tax already in place has been subverted from its original intent and much of the money has finally gotten into the hands of the Legislature and, ultimately, will fund all kinds of boondoggle projects, thanks to that same Legislature giving full reprogramming power to the Executive Branch. Somebody's driveway will get paved instead of an ad running in Japan, Korea, or China to draw more visitors to come here and leave their money behind.

In fact, it could be said that the promises made to HANMI member-hotels, and many others, that by law 80% of the Public Law 18-1 hotel tax would go to MVA for destination promotional programs has been broken. The money has been diverted to 50 other, far less important, projects so political favors can be repaid instead of going to promote our islands in order to bring visitors here to spend their money. Remember that tourism is still the only substantial source of income the CNMI has. Stealing the MVA promotional money is like a thirsty man drinking the priming water for his pump *now* instead of pouring it into the pump so he can have all the water he wants later. Short sighted? Like Mr. Magoo.

Stealing the hotel tax money and claiming "it is for the children" (via funding to the Public School System and Northern Marianas College) is still stealing and is still incredibly unproductive. Legislators, please don't fall for this inane piece of "I-made-a-D-in math" legislation. Please vote this down. I hope you are reading this, Rep. Ivan Blanco. I know you can both add and multiply, unlike some of your colleagues. You asked for comments; the above is mine.

In short, the amount of respect due Janet for this idea approaches zero. Implementing her idea is like shooting yourself in the foot, then shooting yourself in the stomach to help cure the foot wound.

Bubblegum

Bless Lee Pan's little heart. He's at it again, texting while walking is now going to be a crime, thanks to his House Bill 21-51. I'm guessing that the new legislation he should be promoting has something to do with chewing gum and walking at the same time. That would certainly generate more money for crosswalk maintenance at $25 a pop than criminalizing a Facebook entry.

SOUR GRAPES

By BRUCE BATEMAN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Bruce A. Bateman resides on Saipan with a wife, a son, and an unknown number of boonie dogs. He has owned and operated a number of unusual businesses and most recently worked as the marketing manager for MVA. Bruce likes to read, travel, tinker with bicycles, hike, swim, and play a bit of golf. He is opinionated and writes when the moon is full and the mood strikes.

If I could make a suggestion. One of the key areas of Lee Pan's constituency is San Antonio village, a place that looked terrible *before* Super Typhoon Yutu gave it a savage blow. Now some parts of the main road look like a war zone. The suggestion is, come up with some legislation that takes many of these abandoned buildings off the eyesore list. Work up a law that makes someone be actually responsible for the slovenly mess. The real owner of the underlying ground should be responsible if no one in the lease/sublease chain can be found and made to pay for repairs or demolition. Now that is something that would really make a difference in San Antonio and all across Saipan. Think big, Lee Pan. Do something worthwhile for your constituents and for the island of Saipan.

Ugly cubed

The CNMI government buys something, lets it rot, and it become a liability instead of an asset. The MV *Challenger* is a prime example and the La Fiesta Mall is the poster child for this pitiful and criminal result of no one in government being responsible for their actions. No one's head rolled for the huge La Fiesta boondoggle that still sits there looking horrible, smelling worse and losing money every day. Now we are about to come up with the NextGen version—Ugly Cubed. That is what the quickly rotting Mariana Resort will become. The pool and golf course are already well on their way. The hotel and villas will not be far behind. Rats are going to love their new home.

Please note that Rep. Lee Pan has made a preliminary report about this coming debacle. This is the same Lee Pan that has allowed his home precinct to fester and abet eyesores far worse for the entire time he has been in office. Lee Pan, please see the suggestion above for a possible solution. Pot calling the kettle black?

Now to cases. Why is this money-making asset not making money but losing it day by day? Because the Department of Public Lands has sat on this for several years without taking action. The only respondent to the request for proposals has waited for

See THE UGLY on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Simple villagers

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune.

Heading into the weekend, I usually prepare to partake in the radio show "Marianas Agupa" hosted by Glenn Manglona.

It's an outstanding forum where simple folks call in to express and share views on current events and issues here. I listen intently to their expressions that provide the bridge and insight into their concerns.

The most prominent complaint relates to poverty income wages and salaries in the CNMI. The economic contraction lends to this view as revenues and job opportunities disappear. Thus, aspiration for more income disappears in dreamland. Economic contraction leaves no extras for other needs.

The unhinged expressions entail everyday family issues literally struggling in the marshland of abject poverty. It's a painful experience that needs tons of money (about $750 million per year) to successfully free folks from the vicious hardship of poverty income wages and salaries.

Money

Indeed, it takes more than vacuous political posturing to fulfill economic prosperity. It's far more complex than meets the eye. It must be founded on a healthy economy. It requires a fully thought-out set of plans. Are you up to the task? Or "not yet, already?"

Lest we forget, a decent family income is supposed to pay for the first family home, automobile, food, clothing, and healthcare, among other basic needs. How many of nearly half the workforce in poverty income categories could decently afford such obligations? Poverty income is between $15K and $42K per year.

Difficult as it may be, I'm still optimistic that economic prosperity is attainable, if only we converge in a single room to trump our cards why an economic plan is definitely in order. It allows policymakers to contribute actively to a set of ideas that would improve the lot of people they represent.

The prevailing "que sera" attitude has only fanned the fire of economic stagnancy to our demise. It's time to embrace working together to form a fully thought-out set of plans. It allows for refinement as we move forward.

Blame

The liberal media blames President Trump for the mass shooting in El Paso and Dayton, Ohio. "Media commentators who have been quick to blame President Trump for recent mass shootings are engaging in the same rhetoric they claim to despise," according to Howard Kurtz.

"The suspects in both the Dayton and El Paso shootings are deranged individuals whose actions do not reflect upon the politicians they may support, Kurtz said Tuesday on "The Story."

"There is a massive difference between criticizing President Trump for his sometimes divisive language—that's fair game—and coming out and saying the president wants mass violence," he said.

"He is outright accused as if it was an undisputed fact of being a racist, of being a white supremacist. …Here's the irony, that some of these commentators are allowing their own very intense anger toward Donald Trump to lead them into the kind of inflammatory rhetoric that they accuse him of spreading.

"These shootings have produced an absolute media frenzy."

MW debate

Interesting the debate on minimum wage between here and D.C., where the focus is on what's fair for both employer and employee.

In nearly every debate, the one convenient issue turned folly that is skipped altogether relates to the cost of living. Understood why the seeming fear to face the music squarely. If you take cost of living, what would be our MW here?

Would $7.50 suffice or is it more like $36 an hour, considering the cost of living here is triple the cost in the U.S. mainland? Moreover, most everything here is imported, thus the high cost of basic necessities. We don't have anything else other than the mini-tourism industry that seems to be doing well. As fickle as it may be, it's the only thing we have at this juncture.

Investments

Indeed, most employees situated away from the powers-that-be ask: How do we improve income to grant families some relief from vicious hardship at home?

Definitely, policymakers are probably at a loss how to provide realistic answers to resolve poverty income at home. It requires real-time planning to welcome more investments to spur additional revenues. And it takes investments, not empty rhetoric, to get from point "A" to point "B."

Unless real hard pennies, nickels, and dimes are in the coffers there's nothing up this alley except long sighs and yawns while looking intelligently disoriented. Must exit the comforts and convenience of grand complacency! Must encourage more investments.

Weaponizing the dead of El Paso and Dayton

By JOHN KASS
Chicago Tribune

John Kass is a columnist for the Chicago Tribune. *Readers may send him email at jskass@chicagotribune.com.*

Those angry loner white boys with guns, this time in El Paso, Texas, and Dayton, Ohio, have again erupted on the body politic.

And those with eyes to see are reminded that the American culture is ill.

But what of the mass shootings in Chicago, the 55 people shot over the weekend, with seven hit near a park and then eight more not far away?

You might think these are "mass shootings" too, but, in political/media terms, they're not treated as such. The victims, and in all likelihood the shooters, are black. And Democratic politicians find no political advantage in weaponizing the victims of everyday street violence in a Democratic town. So Chicago's dead are stepped over by national media and national Democrats on the way to 2020.

Republicans want the focus moved from President Donald Trump and his idiotic, often incendiary tweets to the violence in Baltimore and Chicago. Presidential daughter Ivanka Trump tweeted, somewhat desperately, "we mustn't become numb to the violence faced by inner city communities every day."

Nice try, but she failed, and she was immediately condemned. Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot, under pressure to do something, anything, about the slaughter, must be thankful that the Trumps give her cover and a target for sarcasm. Lightfoot dismissed Ivanka Trump's tweets as "nonsense."

Babies shot in Chicago? Poor people terrorized daily? Cops and paramedics pushed to the breaking point?

They're largely forgotten. In political terms it's all about those white boys with their guns.

Democrats wrap them around Trump's neck, focusing on a key voter block, suburban white women with those "Hate Has No Home Here" signs. For two years, the left and media have shrieked unproven allegations about Trump and collusion with Russia. Now that has faded, Democrats adeptly find themselves on comfortable, familiar ground: race.

The white boys are indeed domestic terrorists, some white supremacists, like the one charged with slaughtering innocents in El Paso, hating on Latin immigrants, legal and illegal, echoing Trump's use of the word "invasion," and writing a bizarre manifesto. "I figured that an under-prepared attack and a meh manifesto is better than attack and no manifesto," it read.

And while politicians of both parties argue endlessly about how many devils can fit on the edge of a knife, America knows there are more of them out there, waiting to pop.

Years ago, before Trump was elected president, there were white boys with guns too, slaughtering innocents. And those of us who made the culture argument back then, rather than advocate ripping the Second Amendment out of the Bill of Rights, were denounced, predictably, as know-nothing conservatives.

There had already been tens of millions of legal abortions serving as grim building blocks of an American death cult. And there were increasingly violent video games that fed the isolation, growing nihilism and misogyny in those sad, angry, mentally disturbed boys who nonetheless pass their background checks, buy their guns and make the news.

Now? They are lost in public schools that teach them about their toxic masculinity, they are loners, they are armed, in a culture that turns its face away from God.

But Trump is president now, and his constantly belligerent rhetoric, used to wage war against the corrupt status quo, has given the left great license to conflate complicated issues. They see opportunity and power to be had, and before the victims from El Paso and Dayton were buried, the dead were weaponized.

Democratic presidential candidate Beto O'Rourke, flailing and desperate for attention, eagerly picked up on the prompts given him by former Democratic political staffers turned TV news anchors. He blamed Trump for El Paso and pronounced the president a racist. Other Democrats denounced him as well, even Sen. Bernie Sanders, the socialist of Vermont, who should know better.

Because it was also a crazy white madman who stalked those Republican Congressmen as they played baseball in a park in 2017 and tried to massacre them all with a rifle. He was a Sanders supporter and the cry went up wherever we talk politics, in the common square and in newsrooms, that blaming the left for the insane actions of an insane man would be unthinkable.

The shooter in Dayton was, reportedly, of the political left and a supporter of Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Elizabeth Warren, but you don't hear much of that, do you?

In other, saner times, leveraging the political persuasions of absolute madmen against a political opponent would be a signal for a gentleman to rise from the table and leave the room without comment. But now it is the blood of our politics.

Yet whenever I feel that our politics and culture are beyond redemption, someone comes along to prove me wrong, like U.S. Army Pfc. Glendon Oakley Jr. He was at that Walmart in El Paso when the shooting began. Oakley, who has a concealed carry license, ran toward the sound of gunfire, to save as many children as he could. Later, talking about what happened, he sought to direct the media spotlight away from himself and toward the grieving families. And he began to weep.

"I want to look out to the families that were lost and families that lost their children," he said in El Paso, "because the focus should not be on me, it should be on what happened in Ohio, and what happened in Chicago and what happened yesterday."

But the focus is not on them. And unfortunately, it is not on the moral courage of Pfc. Oakley.

Those who can be used in death will be used. And that who cannot be used will be stepped over. Politics doesn't focus on moral virtue. Politics focuses on power.

THE UGLY

From Page 14

years for a land lease and DPL under at least two different department secretaries has been unwilling or unable to write an acceptable lease. A high school freshman with access to Google Search could write a lease in less time than that. What is really going on? I'm sure those department secretaries are getting their marching orders from someone very high in the Executive Branch, so it is tough to blame them directly…but someone needs to be held responsible. Someone needs to get off their respective butts and do the job. It smacks of collusion and self-serving government malfeasance at its worst or an unbelievable level of incompetence on the other. I really don't care which, but as a taxpayer I would sure like to see somebody get off their ass and resolve this issue before another month goes by. Wouldn't you?

No man's life, liberty or property is safe while the legislature is in session.

—Mark Twain

Can a people tax themselves into prosperity? Can a man stand in a bucket and lift himself up by the handle?

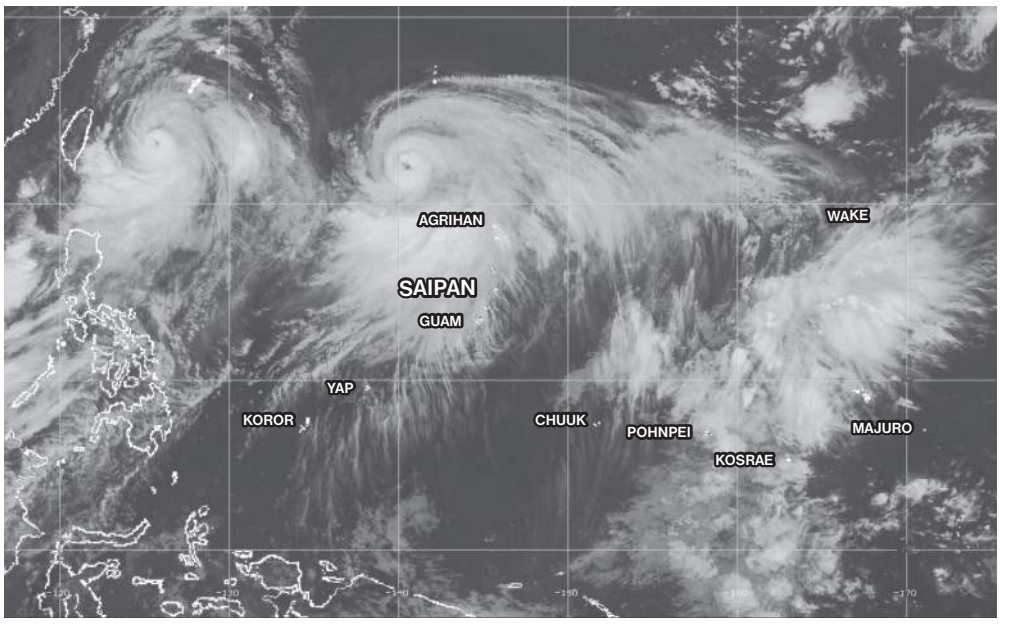
—Winston Churchill

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Southwest winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers and thunderstorms. West to southwest winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
84° / 77°	85° / 77°	86° / 77°	86° / 77°	87° / 77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 5:47 AM, THURSDAY, AUGUST 8, 2019
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Tropical Storm Krosa is centered near 22N 141E, about 625 miles NNW of Guam and 555 miles NNW of Saipan, moving slowly NNW. Monsoon southwest flow south and southeast of Krosa is producing deep convection to within 80 to 100 miles northwest of the islands, moving northeast at around 30 mph. In the Marianas waters, skies are cloudy but radar only shows patches of very light rain. Combined seas are 10-11 ft at the buoys, except around 3 ft at Ipan, which is shielded from the large west swell.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Palau	Partly Cloudy	85° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	84° / 79°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 76°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 76°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	87° / 81°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Showers	61° / 54°
Beijing	Thunderstorms	82° / 72°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	90° / 84°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	90° / 79°
London	Showers	75° / 63°
Los Angeles	Sunny	81° / 64°
Manila	Thunderstorms	88° / 81°
Melbourne	Showers	52° / 45°
Miami	Thunderstorms	89° / 79°
New York	Mostly Sunny	87° / 67°
Osaka	Sunny	95° / 81°
Paris	Showers	84° / 64°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	88° / 79°
Rome	Sunny	97° / 73°
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	92° / 74°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	65° / 58°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	97° / 79°
Tokyo	Thunderstorms	91° / 77°
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	89° / 66°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
1:48 AM	LOW TIDE	2.01
9:13 AM	HIGH TIDE	0.32
4:09 PM	LOW TIDE	1.67
9:08 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.24

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:00 AM	6:43 PM
Saturday	6:01 AM	6:43 PM
Sunday	6:01 AM	6:42 PM
Monday	6:01 AM	6:42 PM
Tuesday	6:01 AM	6:41 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	12:33 AM	1:37 PM
Saturday	-	1:20 AM	2:32 PM
Sunday	-	2:08 AM	3:26 PM
Monday	-	2:58 AM	4:18 PM
Tuesday	-	3:49 AM	5:08 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 9, 2019

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:15am	10:00am	Daily
UA105	6:25pm	7:05pm	2, 4

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

BC802	16:45pm	19:30pm	Daily from Aug 9 to 14

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:30am	6:30am	4
7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	1:35am	5:20am	Daily
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:35am	1, 2, 3, 5, 7
7C3403	5:00am	8:30am	4
7C3403	5:00am	8:50am	6
7C3401	4:10pm	7:45pm	4, 7
7C3401	4:10pm	8:10pm	1, 2, 3, 5, 6

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	12:05pm	1
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:50am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:00am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA117/183	9:15am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA117/183	9:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA117/193	9:15am	10:40pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:35am	8:25am	1
UO43	5:50am	8:40am	3, 5, 7
UA117/159	9:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	7:30am	8:15am	Daily
UA104	4:50pm	5:31pm	2, 4

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

BC801	10:00am	14:40pm	Daily from Aug 9 to 14

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3452	9:35pm	2:30am+1	3

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	9:30am	3:10pm	Daily
TW307	7:00pm	12:35am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	1, 2, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:40pm	4:10am+1	3, 5

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:30pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD395	8:50pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	8:10pm	3:10am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:50pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA192/174	9:45pm	8:12am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA184/174	10:25pm	8:12am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/174	11:30pm	8:12am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:20pm	00:30am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:25pm	1:20am+1	7
UO42	9:25pm	4:20am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/174	10:45pm	8:12am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; BC SkyMark ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Man's 30-year sentence in sex abuse case is affirmed

The NMI Supreme Court has affirmed the 30-year sentence without the possibility of parole that the lower court had imposed on Alfredo E. Reyes, who was convicted of sexual abuse of a minor.

The CNMI high court issued its opinion in *Commonwealth v. Alfredo E. Reyes* last Aug 2, 2019.

A jury in 2013 found Reyes guilty of three counts of sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree for sexually abusing the victim on three separate occasions. The trial court sentenced him to 30 years imprisonment, "without the possibility of parole, probation, early release, work or weekend release, or any other similar program."

On appeal, Reyes claimed: 1) his sentence was not tailored to his individual circumstances; and 2) his parole eligibility was improperly restricted. He therefore asked the Supreme Court to vacate his sentence and return his case to the trial court to be sentenced by a different judge.

The Supreme Court found that while the 30-year sentence may be harsh, a reasonable person would hand down a similar sentence. The trial court gave particular attention to the sentencing goals of deterrence, retribution, incapacitation, and rehabilitation. It also acknowledged Reyes' ability to learn from his crime, the safety of the community, the multiple times the sexual abuse occurred, the manipulation of the victim, and Reyes' prior criminal history. All these factors provided reasonable grounds to sentence Reyes to the maximum sentence and restrict his parole eligibility.

The high court's full opinion is available at http://cnmilaw.org/pdf/supreme/2019-MP-06.pdf. ***(PR)***

Deadline for annuity recipient information update

To maintain current records, the Settlement Fund has requested that members submit the 2018 Annuity Recipient Information Update form (Form SF-200).

The following documents are required to be attached to the form:

(1) A copy of a valid photo identification, such as a driver's license, passport, or other ID issued within the past five years; and

(2) If a disability annuitant or surviving spouse, a copy of the 2017 Income Tax Return; for surviving spouses not required to file, submission of the Affidavit of Surviving Spouse (Form SF-8).

All forms are available for download at https://www.nmisf.com/forms-2/ and at the Settlement Fund office on Capital Hill.

The final deadline to submit the 2018 form and accompanying documents is Aug. 23, 2019. Failure to comply, including failure to provide complete information or documents, will result in a hold of benefits until such time that a member is in full compliance. Forms and accompanying documents may be submitted by: (1) email to info@nmisf.com; (2) facsimile to (670) 664-8080; or (3) hand delivery to the Settlement Fund, Isa Drive, Capital Hill. Contact the Settlement Fund at (670) 322-3863 to verify whether you are in compliance. ***(PR)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 13th birthday to our Lenelle Rylie DLC Bansil! Have a blessed birthday and we love you so much! Love always, from Mommy, Daddy, Leo, Lea, and Leina.

DFS brings back 'beauty campaign'

DFS Group, a leading luxury travel retailer, will bring the best of beauty to traveling customers again this August with its 6th Annual First Class Beauty campaign.

A total of 25 DFS and T Galleria by DFS stores will offer beauty treats, featuring exclusive products and exciting experiences from more than 40 brands.

This year's edition of the campaign, themed "Your One-Stop Beauty Destination," will offer a curated selection of brands offering an assortment of make-up, skincare, and fragrance products grouped into three beauty moods: City Nights, Beach Getaway, and Nature Escapes.

First Class Beauty 2019 represents an array of makeup, skincare and fragrances for seasoned travelers. As with previous First Class Beauty campaigns, these products will be brought to life in DFS stores worldwide through a localized calendar of experiences. From Aug. 1 to 31, participating stores will host a series of activities.

"With the discerning traveler at the heart of all we do, we have put all our efforts into developing experiences and products that respond to their needs with creativity and flair," said Christophe Marque, senior vice president of Beauty, DFS Group. "We are immensely proud to partner with more brands than ever before to create these exclusive pop ups, all dedicated to first-class beauty."

Experience First Class Beauty at DFS this summer. From city nights to a beach getaway or a natural escape—we've got you covered! Shop and enjoy exclusive offers, complimentary makeovers, photo opportunities, and much more. ***(PR)***

High court affirms Hocog's sentence but vacates restriction on his parole

The CNMI Supreme Court issued its opinion in *Commonwealth v. Donald A. Hocog* last Aug. 2, affirming Hocog's 30-year sentence. The high court, however, vacated the parole restriction, which originally prevented him from ever being eligible for parole.

A jury in 2013 found Hocog guilty of sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree for sexually abusing the victim on several occasions. The trial court sentenced him to 30 years imprisonment, "without the possibility of parole, probation, early release, work or weekend release, or any other similar program."

On appeal, Hocog claimed: 1) his sentence was not tailored to his individual circumstances; 2) his parole eligibility was improperly restricted; and 3) the trial court sentenced him based on insufficient evidence.

Because of these reasons, he asked the Supreme Court to vacate his sentence and return his case to the trial court to be sentenced by a different judge.

The Supreme Court found that while the 30-year sentence may be harsh, a reasonable person would hand down a similar sentence in light of Hocog's criminal record, the number of temporary restraining orders against him, the prolonged period of sexual abuse, the young person who witnessed the abuse, the victim's suffering, and the psychological effects of the sexual abuse on the victim.

The Supreme Court, however, found the complete restriction of Hocog's eligibility for parole as improper because the trial court's justification was both inadequate and insufficient.

The high court's full opinion is available at http://cnmilaw.org/pdf/supreme/2019-MP-05.pdf. ***(PR)***

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & CULTURAL AFFAIRS
DIVISION OF YOUTH SERVICES

PUBLIC HEARING ANNOUNCEMENT

This is to inform the general public that the Division of Youth Services under the auspices of the Department of Community & Cultural Affairs will be conducting a public hearing on its FY 2020 Consolidated Block Grant (CBG) State Plan under the authority of the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) - Title XX, as amended and codified at 42 U.S.C. §1397 et seq. on the following dates/time:

ISLAND	DATE	TIME	VENUE
Saipan	08/14/2019	5:30 - 6:30 p.m.	Multi- Purpose Center
Tinian	08/20/2019	5:30 - 6:30 p.m.	Tinian Youth Center
Rota	08/22/2019	2:30 - 3:30 p.m.	Mayor's Office

The basic programs and services implemented under the Consolidated Block Grant for the CNMI must accomplish one or more of the 5 National Goals:

1. Achieving or maintaining economic self- support to prevent, reduce, or eliminate dependency. ***(Self- Support)***
2. Achieving or maintaining self- sufficiency, including reduction or prevention of dependency. ***(Self- Sufficiency)***
3. Preventing or remedying neglect, abuse or exploitation of children and adults unable to protect their own interest, or preserving, rehabilitating or reuniting families. ***(Protective Services)***
4. Preventing or reducing inappropriate institutional care by providing for community- based care, home- based care, or other forms of less intensive care. ***(Prevent Institutionalism)***
5. Securing referral or admission for institutional care when other forms of care are not appropriate or providing services to individuals in institutions. ***(Appropriate Institutionalism)***

An electronic copy of the DYS FY 2020 Consolidated Block Grant State Plan may be viewed on the links provided below:

Division of Youth Services - www.dys.gov.mp
Governor's Office - www.gov.mp

Copies for the above State Plan may also be picked up at the Division of Youth Services Office located at the Chalan Piao Plaza, 1st Floor (adjacent to Bank of Guam). For more information, or to submit written comments, you may contact:

Telephone numbers: 237-1000/1/2/3/4
Email: Rita M. Castro (DYS Grant Writer) - rcastro@dys.gov.mp
Vivian T. Sablan (DYS Administrator) - vsablan@dys.gov.mp

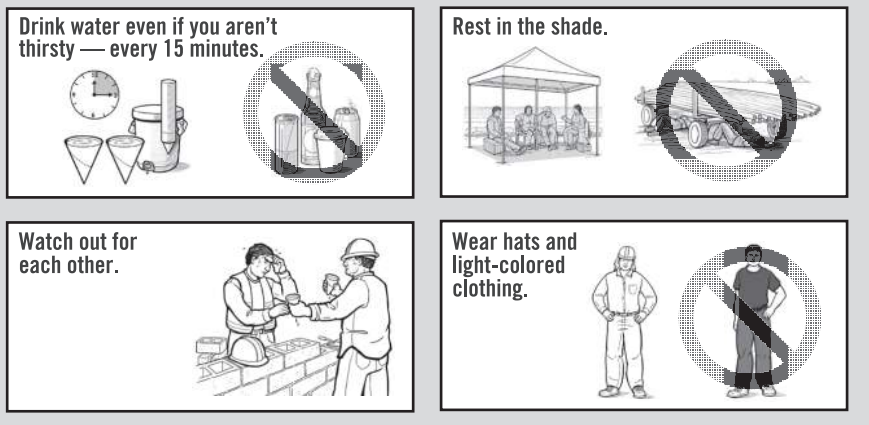
/s/ Vivian T. Sablan
DYS Administrator

/s/ Robert H. Hunter
DCCA Secretary

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Department of Labor

Contact the CNMI-OSHA On-Site Consultation Program for your FREE consultation services.

Stay safe and healthy!
WATER. REST. SHADE. The work cant get done without them.


Drink water even if you aren't thirsty — every 15 minutes.
Rest in the shade.
Watch out for each other.
Wear hats and light-colored clothing.

Easy does it on your first days of work in the heat. You need to get used to it.
Rest in the shade at least 5 minutes as needed to cool down.

2

For more information, please call CNMI-OSHA On-Site Consultation office at
Tel.: 664-3154/5/6/7 or
Email: Wallace Chong: wchongdolosha@gmail.com
Sidney Camacho: scamachodolosha@gmail.com

This ad is paid for by U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration

Business

Trade war escalation comes at inopportune moment for economy

AP
A man walks past a money exchange shop decorated with different banknotes at Central, a business district in Hong Kong, Tuesday, Aug. 6, 2019.

WASHINGTON (AP) — The escalation of the U.S.-China trade fight comes at a particularly inopportune moment for the global economy, threatening to turn a period of slower growth into recession.

In the past week, President Donald Trump has said he will impose new taxes on hundreds of billions of dollars of Chinese imports. Beijing responded by halting purchases of U.S. farm goods and allowing the value of its currency, the yuan, to fall to an 11-year low. Trump, in turn, labeled China a currency manipulator, a step that has little immediate effect but could lead to future tariff hikes.

The rapid-fire sequence of events "shatters confidence, trust and expectations," said Sung Won Sohn, an economist at Loyola Marymount University in California. World stock markets tumbled Monday — the Dow Jones Industrial Average lost 767 points or 2.9% — before rebounding Tuesday. The Dow recovered from a steep fall Wednesday morning and was down 68 points in afternoon trading.

The prospects for a trade deal, which appeared bright as recently as mid-May, have dimmed to near-invisibility.

"They are all moving in the wrong directions," Sohn said. "I don't think the Chinese are looking for a trade deal during the current term of President Trump. They have decided he is too unpredictable to negotiate with."

When companies across the world lose confidence or certainty about global trade policies, they tend to postpone plans to invest, expand and hire. Spread across the global economy and over time, those trends can trigger a severe economic downturn.

The trade dispute has already had spillover effects across the globe. In Germany, Europe's industrial powerhouse, factory output fell in June for the second time in three months, partly because its exports to China have fallen. China is purchasing less manufacturing equipment from Germany as its own economy weakens.

And Japan's exports have fallen for seven straight months, partly because Japanese factories ship electrical components and semiconductors to China for assembly into smartphones and other tech gadgets.

Barely a month ago, Trump and President Xi Jinping announced a truce in their battle over allegations that Beijing forces foreign companies to hand over trade secrets, unfairly subsidizes Chinese companies and engages in cyber-theft of intellectual property.

The cease-fire broke last week when Trump, professing frustration that 12 rounds of negotiations had failed to break the impasse, said he would impose tariffs Sept. 1 on $300 billion of Chinese imports that he previously left untouched.

Those duties would cover mostly consumer goods, such as toys, clothes, and smartphones, products that were largely spared in the Trump administration's earlier rounds of tariffs. That could raise prices for U.S. consumers just in time for holiday shopping.

The world economy hardly needs the strain. The International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and other forecasters have all downgraded their forecasts for global growth this year.

It isn't just the trade war. Manufacturers around the world have allowed their inventories to build up and now are slowing production to bring their stockpiles closer to customer demand. JPMorgan's global manufacturing index fell in July for the third straight month to the lowest level since 2012. Moody's Investors Service predicts that global auto sales will drop 3.8% this year.

FedEx to end ground delivery business with Amazon

NEW YORK (AP)—FedEx says it will no longer make ground deliveries for Amazon as the online shopping giant builds its own fleet and becomes more of a threat to delivery companies.

The announcement Wednesday comes two months after FedEx terminated its air delivery contract with Amazon. FedEx said dumping Amazon is part of its plan to go after more e-commerce deliveries from other companies.

Traditional retailers like Walmart and Target want to sell more of their goods online, which in turn allows FedEx to distance itself from Amazon.com without suffering the same competitive damage it might once have.

"This does not come as a surprise to us," Citi Research analyst Christian Wetherbee said in a note to clients. "The company is clearly trying to move away from its partnership with Amazon and we believe it is using this move as a selling point to win new non-Amazon business."

Cowen analyst Helane Becker said FedEx's profit margin on Amazon shipments is probably in the "very low single digits," and she believes the company can replace those packages with more profitable business from other retailers.

Amazon is growing its own fleet of air and ground transportation, giving it more control of how its packages are delivered while reducing its reliance on FedEx, UPS and the U.S. Postal Service. The Seattle-based company has leased jets, built package-sorting hubs at airports and launched a program to let its contractor drivers start their own businesses delivering packages in vans stamped with the Amazon logo.

Last month, FedEx warned for the first time in a government filing that Amazon's fledging delivery business could lower prices, hurt its revenue and "negatively impact our financial condition and results of operations."

It was a departure from previous statements by FedEx officials—and those at UPS—who have long downplayed the idea that Amazon could become a competitor in the delivery business. They noted that it took many years and billions of dollars for their companies to build extensive, worldwide networks of planes and delivery trucks.

"I mean, we look at Amazon as a wonderful company and service, and they're a good customer of ours," said FedEx Chairman and CEO Fred Smith during an earnings call in December. "We don't see them as a peer competitor at this point in time. For many reasons, we think it is doubtful that that will be the case."

In a regulatory filing in February, Amazon tweaked the description of its business to say that competitors include transportation companies so FedEx "is taking them at their word and dropping them as a client," Becker said.

"We think (FedEx) is treating Amazon like any other competitor. They wouldn't carry competitor packages, like UPS, so why would they carry Amazon packages?" she said.

BOG wins again for corporate social responsibility

HAGATNA, Guam—Bank of Guam was hailed for its Corporate Social Responsibility efforts at the 2019 Asian Banking & Finance Retail Banking Awards, repeating recognition earned in 2018.

Bank of Guam earned the Corporate Social Responsibility of the Year-Bronze award for its high school financial literacy programs and the 2018 Life Teen Expo.

» Earns bronze at 2019 Asian Banking & Finance Retail Banking Awards

In its 15th year, the Asian Banking & Finance Retail Banking Awards recognizes banks all over Asia that stand out with groundbreaking products and services. Winners are chosen by a panel of judges from Deloitte, Ernst & Young Advisory, KPMG and PwC South East Asia Consulting.

William D. Leon Guerrero, Bank of Guam chairman of the board, lauded the bank's efforts stating, "Our bank was started 47 years ago to provide opportunity to our local community. A big part of that is promoting financial literacy and awareness at all levels, particularly for our children. Today, Bank of Guam's community outreach and financial literacy efforts are unmatched as our employees continue to make a difference in the lives of young adults throughout our region, which is an ongoing part of our mission to serve our community. We are humbled to receive such recognition for our financial literacy program and LIFE Teen Expo from an esteemed panel of judges."

For more information, please contact Jackie Marati at (671) 472-5258 or jackie.marati@bankofguam.com. ***(PR)***

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
26,007.07	2,883.98	7,862.83
−22.45	+2.21	+29.56
.086%	+.077%	+0.38%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	1.4761	Hong Kong Dollar	7.8410	Russian Ruble	64.9681
British Pound	0.8217	Indian Rupee	70.1878	Singapore Dollar	1.3814
Canadian Dollar	1.3280	Japanese Yen	105.9920	South Korean Won	1189.48
Chinese Yuan	6.9220	Malaysian Ringgit	4.1354	Swiss Franc	0.9743
Euro	0.8914	New Zealand Dollar	1.5478	Taiwan Dollar	30.7956
		Philippine Peso	51.2095	Thailand Baht	30.6965

Nation

Protesters chant as Trump visits Dayton, El Paso

AP

Demonstrators hold a sign as the motorcade carrying President Donald Trump departs a joint operations center after meeting with first responders after the El Paso mass shooting, Wednesday, Aug. 7, 2019, in El Paso, Texas.

EL PASO, Texas (AP)—Aiming to play the traditional role of healer during national tragedy, President Donald Trump paid visits Wednesday to cities reeling from mass shootings that left 31 dead and dozens more wounded. But his divisive words preceded him, large protests greeted him and biting political attacks soon followed.

The president and first lady Melania Trump flew to El Paso late in the day after visiting the Dayton, Ohio, hospital where many of the victims of Sunday's attack in that city were treated. For most of the day, the president was kept out of view of the reporters traveling with him, but the White House said the couple met with hospital staff and first responders and spent time with wounded survivors and their families.

Trump told them he was "with them," said press secretary Stephanie Grisham. "Everybody received him very warmly. Everybody was very, very excited to see him." Trump said the same about his reception in the few moments he spoke with the media at a 911 call center in El Paso.

But outside Dayton's Miami Valley Hospital, at least 200 protesters gathered, blaming Trump's incendiary rhetoric for inflaming political and racial tensions in the country and demanding action on gun control. Some said Trump was not welcome in their city. There were Trump supporters, as well.

In El Paso, former Rep. Beto O'Rourke spoke to several hundred people at a separate gathering. O'Rourke, a potential Democratic 2020 presidential rival, has blistered Trump as a racist instigator, but he also told those in his audience the open way the people of his hometown treat each other could be "the example to the United States of America."

Emotions are still raw in both cities in the aftermath of the weekend shootings. Critics contend Trump's own words have contributed to a combustible climate that has spawned death and other violence.

The vitriol continued Wednesday.

Trump's motorcade passed El Paso protesters holding "Racist Go Home" signs. And Trump spent part of his flight between Ohio and Texas airing his grievances on Twitter, berating Democratic lawmakers, O'Rourke and the press. It was a remarkable split-screen appearance for TV viewers, with White House images of handshakes and selfies juxtaposed with angry tweets.

Trump and the White House have forcefully disputed the idea that he bears some responsibility for the nation's divisions. And he continued to do so Wednesday.

"My critics are political people," Trump said as he left the White House, noting the apparent political leanings of the shooter in the Dayton killings. He also defended his rhetoric on issues including immigration, claiming instead that he "brings people together."

Some 85% of U.S. adults believe the tone and nature of political debate has become more negative, with a majority saying Trump has changed things for the worse, according to recent Pew Research Center polling. And more than three quarters, 78%, say that elected officials who use heated or aggressive language to talk about certain people or groups make violence against those people more likely.

In Dayton, raw anger and pain were on display as protesters chanted "Ban those guns" and "Do something!" during Trump's visit.

Holding a sign that said "Not Welcome Here," Lynnell Graham said she thinks Trump's response to the shootings has been insincere.

Puerto Ricans get their 3rd governor in 6 days

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)—Justice Secretary Wanda Vázquez became Puerto Rico's new governor Wednesday, just the second woman to hold the office, after weeks of political turmoil and hours after the island's Supreme Court declared Pedro Pierluisi's swearing-in a week ago unconstitutional.

Accompanied by her husband, Judge Jorge Díaz, and one of her daughters, Vázquez took the oath of office in the early evening at the Supreme Court before leaving without making any public comment. She then issued a brief televised statement late Wednesday, saying she feels the pain that Puerto Ricans have experienced in recent weeks.

Vázquez

"We have all felt the anxiety provoked by the instability and uncertainty," Vázquez said, adding that she would meet with legislators and government officials in the coming days. "Faced with this enormous challenge and with God ahead, I take a step forward with no interest other than serving the people ... It is necessary to give the island stability, certainty to the markets and secure (hurricane) reconstruction funds."

The high court's unanimous decision, which could not be appealed, settled the dispute over who will lead the U.S. territory after its political establishment was knocked off balance by big street protests spawned by anger over corruption, mismanagement of funds and a leaked obscenity-laced chat that forced the previous governor and several top aides to resign.

But it was also expected to unleash a new wave of demonstrations because many Puerto Ricans have said they don't want Vázquez as governor.

"It is concluded that the swearing in as governor by Hon. Pedro R. Pierluisi Urrutia, named secretary of state in recess, is unconstitutional," the court said in a brief statement.

Pierluisi said that he had stepped forward to help islanders "in the best good faith and desire to contribute to the future of our homeland," but that he would respect the court's ruling.

"I must step aside and support the Justice Secretary of Puerto Rico, the Honorable Wanda Vázquez Garced," he said in a statement before she was sworn in.

People began cheering in some parts of San Juan after the ruling was announced.

But late in the day, about two dozen protesters gathered outside the governor's mansion and called for the removal of Vázquez.

"There'll be no peace as long as there's impunity," yelled the crowd, which remained calm as curious onlookers including tourists took pictures and video.

Carmen Santiago, a homemaker from San Juan who joined the protest, said Puerto Ricans still have energy to organize more protests.

"Especially the young people," she said. "It should be the people who choose the governor, not the party."

Largest US immigration raids in a decade net 680 arrests

MORTON, Miss. (AP) — U.S. immigration officials raided seven Mississippi chicken processing plants Wednesday, arresting 680 mostly Latino workers in the largest workplace sting in at least a decade.

The raids, planned months ago, happened just hours before President Donald Trump visited El Paso, Texas, the majority-Latino border city where a man linked to an online screed about a "Hispanic invasion" was charged in a shooting that left 22 people dead.

"On a day when we seek unifying words and acts to heal the nation's broken heart, President Trump allows so many families and communities to be torn apart," said Angelica Salas, executive director of the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights.

About 600 U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents fanned out across the plants operated by five companies, surrounding the perimeters to prevent workers from fleeing.

In Morton, about 40 miles (65 kilometers) east of the capital of Jackson, workers filled three buses — two for men and one for women — at a Koch Foods Inc. plant.

Those arrested were taken to a military hangar to be processed for immigration violations. About 70 family, friends and residents waved goodbye and shouted, "Let them go! Let them go!" Later, two more buses arrived.

A tearful 13-year-old boy whose parents are from Guatemala waved goodbye to his mother, a Koch worker, as he stood beside his father. Some employees tried to flee on foot but were captured in the parking lot.

Workers, including Domingo Candelaria, who could show they were in the country legally were allowed to leave the plant after agents searched the trunks of their vehicles.

"It was a sad situation inside," Candelaria said.

Mississippi is the nation's fifth-largest chicken producing state and the plants' tough processing jobs have mainly been filled by Latino immigrants eager to take whatever work they can get. Chicken plants dominate the economies of Morton and other small towns east of Jackson.

Based in Park Ridge, Illinois, Koch is one of the largest poultry producers in the U.S, with operations in Mississippi and five other states. The company didn't respond to telephone calls and emails seeking comment.

Matthew Albence, ICE's acting director, told The Associated Press in an interview Wednesday in Pearl, just down the road from the Koch plant, that the raids could be the largest-ever workplace operation in any single state. Asked about their coinciding with Trump's visit to El Paso, Albence responded, "This is a long-term operation that's been going on." He said raids are "racially neutral" and based on evidence of illegal residency.

The companies involved could be charged with knowingly hiring workers who are in the county illegally and will be scrutinized for tax, document and wage fraud, Albence said.

Asia

Taliban suicide blast in Kabul kills 14 people, 145 wounded

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—A Taliban car bomb aimed at Afghan security forces ripped through a busy Kabul neighborhood on Wednesday, killing 14 people and wounding 145—most of them women, children and other civilians—shortly after the extremist group and the United States reported progress on negotiating an end to Afghanistan's nearly 18-year war.

The bombing during morning rush hour was one of the worst attacks in Kabul this year, and it again raised fears among Afghans about what will happen once the estimated 20,000 U.S. and NATO troops in their country go home.

The explosives-packed car detonated at a security checkpoint outside police headquarters in a minority Shiite neighborhood in western Kabul, police spokesman Firdaus Faramarz said. The Taliban said they had targeted a recruitment center for security forces.

Ninety-two of the wounded were civilians, Deputy Interior Minister Khoshal Sadat told reporters. Four police officers were among those killed, he said.

The attack took place as many Kabul residents were preparing for the Muslim holiday Eid al-Adha, which begins Sunday. A large plume of smoke rose over the city. Some nearby buildings were left in rubble. Shopkeepers later swept up broken glass.

"I was having breakfast in a restaurant when the explosion happened," said Mohmmad Qasem. As windows shattered, he and others rushed into the busy street.

Afghans stand near a damaged shop after an explosion in Kabul, Afghanistan, Wednesday, Aug. 7, 2019. AP

Even as the U.S.-Taliban peace talks continue and the Taliban say they will do more to protect civilians, a growing number of them are being killed. July saw the highest number of civilian casualties in a single month since 2017, with more than 1,500 killed or wounded as insurgent attacks spiked, the United Nations said earlier this month.

Any Taliban attack is a barrier to the peace process, presidential spokesman Sediq Seddiqi told reporters, vowing that "Afghan security forces are strong and can protect the Afghan population."

President Ashraf Ghani's government said such attacks apparently are meant to strengthen the Taliban position at the negotiating table but would not succeed.

On Tuesday the Taliban warned Afghans to boycott the Sept. 28 presidential election and avoid campaign rallies which "could become potential targets." The vote already has been delayed for months over security and organizational concerns.

The Taliban have been staging near-daily attacks against Afghan forces across the country, saying the war will continue as long as U.S. and NATO forces are still in Afghanistan.

The Taliban now control roughly half of the country and are at their strongest since 2001, when the U.S.-led invasion toppled their government after it harbored al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden.

Another round of U.S.-Taliban talks continues this week in the Gulf Arab state of Qatar, where the insurgents maintain an office.

Zalmay Khalilzad, the U.S. envoy tasked with finding a peaceful resolution to America's longest war, this week reported "excellent progress" in the talks. A Taliban official said differences had been resolved over the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Afghanistan and Taliban guarantees that they will cut ties with other extremist groups. The U.S. wants to make sure that Afghanistan will not become a launching pad for attacks against it.

Khalilzad condemned Wednesday's bombing, saying in a Twitter post that "the focus should be on immediately reducing violence as we move closer to intra-Afghan negotiations that will produce a political roadmap and a permanent ceasefire."

Khalilzad has said he is hoping for a final agreement by Sept. 1. But major challenges remain as the Taliban refuse to negotiate with the Kabul government, dismissing it as a U.S. puppet.

More civilian casualties were reported on Wednesday in the western city of Herat, where a sticky bomb wounded at least eight people, including women and children, said Abdul Ahid Walizada, spokesman for the provincial police chief.

Another threat in Afghanistan is the local Islamic State group affiliate, which also has carried out several large-scale attacks in Kabul, frequently targeting minority Shiites.

On Wednesday, security officials said an overnight raid in eastern Kabul targeted three locations in residential areas from which the IS group has been launching attacks. Three members of the security forces and two of the extremists were killed, the officials said, and bomb-making materials were seized.

And in northern Baghlan province, a suicide bomber in a Humvee tried to attack an Afghan base but was killed by security forces, said Jawed Basharat, spokesman for the provincial police chief.

Pakistan downgrades diplomatic ties with India over Kashmir

ISLAMABAD (AP)—The political crisis over the disputed territory of Kashmir escalated Wednesday when Pakistan said it would downgrade its diplomatic ties with India, expel the Indian ambassador and suspend bilateral trade with its regional rival.

Indian authorities have clamped a complete shutdown on Muslim-majority Kashmir as the Hindu-led nationalist government in New Delhi scrapped the region's statehood and special status, including the right to its own constitution.

As the security lockdown by Indian troops continued in Kashmir for a third day, hundreds of migrant workers began the long trek back to their villages in northern and eastern India.

The Kashmir region is divided between India and Pakistan, and is claimed by both. The two nuclear-armed neighbors have fought three wars, two of them over control of the mountainous region since they won independence from the British in 1947.

Kashmir is India's only Muslim-majority state and most people there oppose Indian rule. Insurgent groups have been fighting for Kashmir's independence from India or its merger with Pakistan since 1989.

The Indian government has shut off most communications, including internet, cellphone and landline networks, with Kashmir. Thousands of additional troops were sent to the already heavily militarized region out of fear the government's steps could spark unrest.

In response to India's action, Pakistani Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi told parliament that it will expel the Indian ambassador, and the Foreign Ministry later said India has been informed to withdraw the envoy. The decision came at a meeting of Pakistan's National Security Committee led by Prime Minister Imran Khan and attended by the heads of the armed forces and senior government officials.

Khan told the meeting that his government will use all diplomatic channels "to expose the brutal Indian racist regime" and human rights violations in Kashmir, the government statement said.

Khan also directed Pakistan's armed forces to remain on maximum alert.

Islamabad also said it will review other aspects of its relations with India. It said it will ask the U.N. to pressure India to reverse its decision to downgrade Kashmir from a state to two separate territories. The region also lost its right to fly its own flag and make many of its own decisions.

Pakistan said it would continue extending diplomatic, political and moral support for people living in Kashmir and their "right of self-determination." Pakistan has long called for people in the Indian-controlled part to be allowed to vote on whether they want to sever ties with India.

Sharat Sabharwal, a former Indian ambassador to Pakistan, played down Islamabad's moves, calling them "very symbolic measures."

"Downgrading of diplomatic ties has happened in the past. You maintain your (diplomatic) missions, but at a lower level. The contacts are on. As far as suspending trade ties with India is concerned, India already has withdrawn most-favored-nation status to Pakistan and imposed customs duties of 200% on Pakistani products. Pakistan will be hurting itself as it needs machinery and other products from India," he said.

US urges increased caution for Americans visiting Hong Kong

HONG KONG (AP)—The U.S. government on Thursday stepped up its warnings to travelers to Hong Kong because of increasing violence surrounding pro-democracy protests in the Chinese city.

The State Department's Level 2 travel advisory issued Thursday urges "increased caution in Hong Kong due to civil unrest" and tells travelers to avoid demonstrations and to "exercise caution if unexpectedly in the vicinity of large gatherings or protests."

The protests were sparked two months ago by proposed extradition legislation that could have seen suspects sent to mainland China where they could face torture and unfair politicized trial. They have since morphed into calls for broader democratic reforms in the former British colony, along with the resignation of Chief Executive Carrie Lam and investigations into alleged police abuse of force.

The territory's crucial travel industry has suffered as tourists put off their visits, with Australia, Ireland, Britain, and Japan having also issued travel advisories to their citizens.

Hong Kong police say a total of 589 people have been arrested in the protests since June 9, ranging in age from 13 to 76. They face charges including rioting, which allows for prison terms of up to 10 years. Protests have seen police firing tear gas, rubber bullets and other projectiles, with demonstrators responding with sharpened metal sticks, lobbed bricks, petrol bombs and carts full of burning debris.

World

Canadian police say 2 bodies found, believed to be fugitives

TORONTO (AP)—Canadian police said Wednesday they believe two fugitives suspected of killing a North Carolina woman and her Australian boyfriend as well as another man have been found dead in dense brush in northern Manitoba.

Authorities located two male bodies and are confident they are 19-year-old Kam McLeod and 18-year-old Bryer Schmegelsky, said Royal Canadian Mounted Police Assistant Commissioner Jane MacLatchy. She said an autopsy will confirm their identities and causes of death.

Critical evidence found last week when police discovered items directly linked to the suspects on the shoreline of the Nelson River helped locate the bodies, MacLatchy said. Following that discovery, authorities were able to narrow down the search.

Police sent in specialized teams and began searching high-probability areas. On Wednesday morning, police located the two bodies within 1 kilometer (0.6 miles) from where the items were found and approximately 9 kilometers (5.6 miles) from where they left a burnt-out vehicle on July 22.

"We are confident that these are the bodies of the two suspects wanted in connection with the homicides in British Columbia," MacLatchy said.

AP

Royal Canadian Mounted Police Assistant Commissioner Jane MacLatchy speaks at a news conference in Winnipeg, Wednesday, Aug.7, 2019.

McLeod and Schmegelsky were charged with second-degree murder in the death of Leonard Dyck, a University of British Columbia lecturer whose body was found July 19 along a highway in British Columbia.

They were also suspects in the fatal shootings of Australian Lucas Fowler and Chynna Deese of Charlotte, North Carolina, whose bodies were found July 15 along the Alaska Highway about 300 miles (500 kilometers) from where Dyck was killed.

A manhunt for the pair had spread across three provinces and included the Canadian military. The suspects had not been seen since the burned-out car was found on July 22.

The bodies were found near Gillam, Manitoba—more than 2,000 miles (3,200 kilometers) from northern British Columbia.

"This is like travelling from London to Moscow coupled with the fact that they were travelling in areas that are not highly populated," British Columbia RCMP Assistant Commissioner Kevin Hackett said.

Police had said Tuesday they were investigating all possibilities including the possibility that the suspects might have drowned.

A police helicopter initially spotted a damaged boat along the Nelson River last week and a follow-up search in the area uncovered the items directly linked to the two in what MacLatchy described as "very tough terrain."

MacLatchy said there is a sense of relief for families of the victims involved and the communities in the area.

"It's huge to be able to hopefully give some people the opportunity to exhale and to hopefully go back to being normal and not be afraid of who is out in the woods," she said.

Deese's brother, British Deese, said the family needed time to process the news that the suspects' bodies were apparently found.

"We are speechless," he said in a text message, declining further comment.

Gillam Mayor Dwayne Forman said people in the community have been on an emotional roller-coaster and are relieved the manhunt is over.

"The closure is here for Gillam and the Fox Lake area. But the closure for the victims' families is far from over," he said.

The separate discoveries of three bodies and burning cars shook rural northern British Columbia and Manitoba.

WORLD BRIEFS

More than 1.8M pilgrims gather in Mecca ahead of the hajj

JIDDAH, Saudi Arabia (AP)—Saudi Arabia says more than 1.8 million Muslims from around the world have arrived in the country to take part in the hajj pilgrimage that starts on Friday. The Director General of Passports, Gen. Suleiman al-Yehya, announced the figure Wednesday, saying close to 970,000 male and 868,000 female pilgrims had arrived to Saudi Arabia for the hajj. In total, more than 2 million people, including Saudis and expatriate residents of the kingdom, are expected to take part this year. Muslims are required to perform the five-day hajj once in their lifetime. The pilgrimage is meant to draw the faithful closer to God. The Saudi government has spent billions of dollars to improve the safety of the pilgrimage in recent years, particularly in Mina where the deadliest incidents have occurred.

Missing UK astrophysicist found dead in Greek island ravine

ATHENS, Greece (AP)—Greek search crews have found the body of a British scientist who went missing while on holiday on the Aegean island of Ikaria in a ravine near where she had been staying, authorities said Wednesday. Police said the body of Cyprus-based astrophysicist Natalie Christopher, 34, was found in a 20-meter (65-foot) deep ravine. Christopher had been reported missing on Monday by her Cypriot partner with whom she was vacationing after she went for a morning run. The cause of death was not immediately clear. An autopsy was scheduled for Thursday. Rescuers told Greece's state ERT TV that the woman appeared to have slipped and suffered fatal injuries while rock climbing. Police, firefighters, volunteers and the coast guard had been scouring the area where Christopher had been staying during her vacation, which has paths along ravines and steep seaside cliffs. A specialized police unit with geolocation equipment was sent to the island to help in the search. Cypriot authorities said they were in close contact with Greek search crews and the woman's family.

Paris child at risk of lead poisoning after Notre Dame fire

PARIS (AP)—Health officials in Paris said Wednesday that a young boy needs medical monitoring because tests conducted after the Notre Dame Cathedral fire showed that he was at risk of lead poisoning. The child, who was tested last week, doesn't need treatment yet, the Regional Health Authority said in a statement late Tuesday. Checks are being conducted to determine whether the lead came from the April 15 fire or another source. The child's school, near the cathedral, was closed in July due to high lead levels found on its grounds. A total of 162 children have been tested for lead in Paris after hundreds of tons of lead in Notre Dame's spire and roof melted in the blaze. Sixteen of those were deemed to be just short of being "at risk" and will also be monitored as a precaution. The results "show, on the one hand, the need to keep cleaning to limit the risk of exposure of the children to lead and, on the other hand, the importance of extending blood tests," the health authority said. Authorities in June recommended blood tests for children under 7 and pregnant women who live near Notre Dame as they are especially vulnerable to health problems from lead poisoning and exposure.

Maduro halts talks with opponents over US asset freeze

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)—Venezuela's government late Wednesday halted negotiations with the opposition in protest of the Trump administration's freezing of its U.S. assets, thrusting into crisis the country's best chance of peacefully resolving a political standoff that has kept the nation on the edge for more than six months.

The decision surprised representatives of opposition leader Juan Guaidó, who were already on the Caribbean island of Barbados awaiting what was to be the start Thursday of the sixth round of talks that began in May under the auspices of Norway.

"We Venezuelans have watched with profound indignation how the chief of the opposition, Juan Guaidó, celebrates, promotes and supports these harmful actions against our nation's sovereignty and our peoples' most basic human rights," the government said in a statement Wednesday night.

The government stopped short of abandoning the talks altogether, saying only that it would "review the mechanisms of this process to ensure its continuation is truly effective and harmonious with the interests of the people."

For weeks, representatives of Maduro and his would-be successor have been shuttling back and forth to Barbados trying to agree on a common path out of the country's prolonged political standoff. The meetings have been slow-going and shrouded in mystery, with neither side disclosing details.

But Maduro's supporters have accused the U.S. of trying to blow up the fragile process with sweeping new sanctions announced this week that freeze all of the government's assets in the U.S. and even threaten to punish companies from third countries that keep doing business with his socialist administration.

"They're trying to dynamite the dialogue," Foreign Minister Jorge Arreaza said Tuesday at a news conference to denounce comments by U.S. National Security Adviser John Bolton defending the asset freeze. "But nobody, not even 1,000 Trumps or 500 Boltons ... will make us abandon the negotiating table."

Maduro said Wednesday night that while he favors dialogue, he will not stand by idly as his opponents cheer on punitive measures by the U.S. that he believes will worsen hardships in a country already suffering from six-digit hyperinflation, medicine shortages and a recession now deeper than the U.S. Great Depression.

"Under these conditions, no," he said in a telephone call to a program on state TV hosted by socialist party boss Diosdado Cabello.

Maduro promised to lead a "counteroffensive" from the constitutional assembly—a rubber-stamp body set up to undermine Venezuela's opposition-controlled congress—to "bring justice to the sellouts and traitors."

Focus

AP

Trader Michael Milano works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, Tuesday, Aug. 6, 2019. Stock markets turned higher on Tuesday as China stabilized its currency after allowing it to depreciate against the dollar in response to President Donald Trump's decision to put more tariffs on Chinese goods.

Why a US-China deal that once looked close now seems far off

By PAUL WISEMAN
AP ECONOMICS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—A deal seemed so close.

As recently as May, the Trump administration and China seemed on the verge of resolving their dispute over Beijing's combative trade policies.

Then it all collapsed. A cease-fire, declared by Presidents Donald Trump and Xi Jinping in June, failed to stick.

Now, global financial markets are shaking and central banks across the world are trying to cushion their economies from the worst by slashing interest rates—all in the expectation that a trade war between the world's two biggest economies will continue to rage, probably through the 2020 U.S. presidential election.

"The U.S.-China trade talks are in serious trouble," said Wendy Cutler, a former U.S. trade negotiator who is now vice president at the Asia Society Policy Institute. "There is less and less trust on both sides, coupled with a growing sense in both Washington and Beijing that they may be better off without a deal, at least for the time being."

The past week has been especially rocky. A week ago, Trump abruptly announced that starting Sept. 1, he would impose tariffs on the remaining $300 billion in Chinese imports that he's so far spared. On Monday, Beijing struck back: It halted purchases of U.S. farm products—a blow to a critical Trump political base in the Midwest—and let its currency sink to its lowest level in 11 years. A lower-valued Chinese currency, the yuan, gives its exporters a competitive edge over foreign rivals.

Beijing's currency move led the U.S. Treasury Department to declare China a currency manipulator for the first time since 1994. That step could eventually pave the way for additional sanctions. But for now, it stands mainly as a symbol of the increasingly rancorous feud between Washington and Beijing.

"Both sides are retrenching," said Timothy Keeler, a former chief of staff at the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative and now a partner at the law firm Mayer Brown."

The prospect that the U.S.-China trade war will go on indefinitely poses a serious threat to a global economy that was already weakening. It rattles financial markets, discourages trade and paralyzes businesses that must decide where to situate factories, buy supplies and sell products. When companies caught in the crossfire put such plans on hold, they collectively depress trade and growth. The International Monetary Fund expects world trade to slow in 2019 for a second straight year.

Central banks are moving to try to limit the economic damage, although reducing borrowing rates provide only a limited benefit when rates are already low. The Federal Reserve last week cut a key U.S. interest rate for the first time in a decade. On Wednesday, the central banks of Indonesia, New Zealand and Thailand announced rate cuts of their own.

"We'll be talking about China and the trade-war dynamic over the next decade," predicted Nate Thooft, head of global asset allocation at Manulife Investment Management. "It's not going away permanently."

The Trump administration and Beijing are fighting over a thorny set of issues. The U.S. side says the Chinese are cheating in their drive to dominate such cutting-edge technologies as artificial intelligence and quantum computing. In particular, the administration alleges that Beijing is stealing trade secrets, forcing foreign companies to hand over technology and unfairly subsidizing Chinese tech firms while burying foreign competitors in red tape.

Reaching a substantive deal was bound to be difficult, not least because it would require China to scale back its economic aspirations—aspirations that have become central to its self-identity. Yet at the start of May the two sides seemed to be moving toward some kind of meaningful agreement.

Abruptly, Trump accused Beijing on May 5 of reneging on commitments it had made earlier and said he would raise tariffs on $200 billion in Chinese products, a threat he made good on five days later. The administration also began readying tariffs on an additional $300 billion in Chinese goods—an escalation that would target virtually everything China sells the United States.

"People were way too optimistic in early May," said Philip Levy, chief economist at the San Francisco freight company Flexport who was an adviser in President George W. Bush's administration.

Trump and Xi offered a respite in June. Trump agreed to delay the new tariffs while broken-off talks resumed. After a 12th round of negotiations in Shanghai last month made scant progress, Trump busted the truce and said he'll tax the $300 billion on Sept. 1. He accused Beijing of trying to slow-walk the talks until 2020 in the hope that he would lose the election and they could negotiate with a Democratic president instead.

Whether or not Trump is correct, there is little doubt that his mercurial style has made him difficult to trust in negotiations.

Trump "remains a New York real estate salesman whose abrasive tone and slippery style of haggling is not suitable for international negotiations and diplomatic relations," said Jeff Moon, a former U.S. diplomat and trade official specializing in China.

Beijing might have drawn a lesson from Trump's dealings with Mexico: After pressuring Mexico into agreeing to a revamped North American trade deal last year, Trump refused for months to lift tariffs on Mexican steel and aluminum.

Finally, in mid-May, he announced that he was dropping those tariffs, restoring harmony to regional trade ties—only to turn around two weeks later and threaten Mexico with new tariffs in a dispute, later resolved, over immigration.

"I'm sure the Chinese were watching the Mexican experience," Levy said. "From the Chinese perspective, it was getting harder and harder to see what a deal would look like that would buy you trade peace."

Other factors, too, are working against a compromise. As the 2020 election near, Trump may have less incentive to reach a trade deal that would likely draw fire from Democratic presidential candidates.

Xi, meanwhile, has his own reasons for avoiding concessions that might make him look weak. His regime faces protests in the semi-autonomous region of Hong Kong. And this fall, he will oversee the 70th anniversary of Chinese Communist rule—a time for patriotic chest-beating, not compromising with a foreign rival.

"Washington's repeated bullying has made it meaningless to continue trade talks in the short run," tweeted Hu Xijin, editor-in-chief of China's nationalistic newspaper Global Times. "China is mobilizing internally to fight firmly with the US."

Dean Pinkert, a former member of the U.S. International Trade Commission now at the Hughes Hubbard & Reed law firm, said he still holds out hope for "a quieter set of conversations that get things back on track."

But for now, the talks are stalled. Moon, who runs the China Moon Strategies consultancy, said, "My guess is that both sides will come to regard the relatively apolitical pre-May 5 period as a missed opportunity."

Science & Technology

Why Outlook blocks some legit emails

TECH Q&A

By STEVE ALEXANDER
Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

Steve Alexander covers technology for the Minneapolis Star Tribune. *Readers may write to him at Tech Q&A, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488-0002; email: steve.j.alexander@gmail.com. Please include a full name, city and phone number.*

Q: My Outlook email program has begun blocking newsletters from National Geographic that I suppose some people might consider controversial (the history of the LGBTQ civil rights movement, for example.) When I click the email to read more or to see more photos, I'm sometimes told that content is blocked. Why is this happening?

A: Outlook isn't designed to block specific content. But, for computer security reasons, it will block some email images and Web links.

That happens because Outlook sometimes considers an email to be suspicious, even though there's not enough evidence to classify it as harmful. An email may be considered suspicious if it comes from a sender that Outlook doesn't recognize and has some of the characteristics of a harmful email. (Harmful emails typically contain malicious software or engage in "phishing," which means the sender tries to trick you into disclosing personal information.) Outlook sends these suspicious emails to your inbox, but disables any online links they contain.

Why would National Geographic newsletters be considered suspicious? Because they are mass-mailed to thousands of people, just as harmful email is. And Outlook doesn't understand that you trust National Geographic to send you safe emails.

Here's how this type of Outlook email blocking works, and how you can turn it off:

Photos: Emailed newsletters typically contain HTML (hypertext markup language) photos that are in fact links to the original photo on someone's website. If you click on one of these linked photos, you will be taken somewhere on the internet. Outlook considers this suspicious and blocks the linked photos from appearing in an email.

What to do about it: To turn off automatic blocking of linked photos, change Outlook's "automatic download" settings, add the sender's email address to your address book and add the sender's "domain name" (nationalgeographic.com) to Outlook's "safe sender list." (See tinyurl.com/y6er5ptf and scroll down to Outlook.)

Links: Outlook disables Web links in suspicious emails to deter phishing attacks.

What to do about it: To change that in Outlook's settings, see tinyurl.com/y2sx3kco and scroll down to "Turn off automatic disabling of links."

Q: In your recent column about Windows 7 becoming obsolete (tinyurl.com/y45pgxy6), you didn't mention the Windows 7 Extended Security Updates. I've read that these updates will make the operating system safe for up to three years beyond January 2020. Is my information about these updates correct?

A: Microsoft offers Windows 7 Extended Security Updates only to business customers who have volume software licensing agreements. Consumers cannot obtain Windows 7 security updates after Jan. 14, 2020.

As I said in the earlier column, Windows 7 will not be safe without regular Microsoft security updates. These updates cannot be replaced by any antivirus, anti-malware or firewall software. As a result, consumers should stop using Windows 7 by January. The only consumer Windows operating systems that will be safe after Jan. 14 are Windows 10 and Windows 8.1.

Brian Lapointe photo
Science Matters
Lush seaweed bed lies across Atlantic
Sargassum on Big Pine Key in the lower Florida Keys
An unprecedented belt of Sargassum, the world's largest "macroalgae" bloom, now stretches from West Africa to the Gulf of Mexico – and it's likely here to stay.
North America
"Sargasso Sea"
Contrary to legend, not a hazard to shipping
Florida Keys
Atlantic Ocean
West Africa
Caribbean Sea
Cancun, Mexico
South America
Mouth of Amazon River
Sargassum density
Grams per square meter
0 2 4 6 8 10
2011 New Sargassum bloom formed
2012, 2014-2019 Growth has occurred every year, shows no signs of dispersing
Great Atlantic Sargassum Belt
Vast growth of free-floating brown algae, shaped by ocean currents
Weighed more than 20 million tons in 2018 – heavier than 200 fully loaded aircraft carriers
Bloom was encouraged by plentiful seeds from previous year, winter sea nutrients off West Africa and nutrients in spring or summer from Amazon River; not known whether fertilizers are a cause
Source: Chuanmin Hu and Mengqiu Wang of University of South Florida; Woody Turner of NASA; Science magazine
In open ocean, provides habitat for porpoises, sea turtles, eels, other sea life
Along coast, Sargassum collects and rots, as shown here in Cancun in 2015
Brian Lapointe photo
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Tribune News Service
Michael Owen photo

Off The Wall

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Girls only: Polish village waits for the birth of a boy

WARSAW, Poland (AP)—A county mayor in southwestern Poland is promising a surprise award for the couple who next have a boy in a village where only girls have been born for nearly a decade. Authorities in the village of Miejsce Odrzanskie, which has around 300 residents, don't know why no boys have been born there since 2010, but they are beginning to worry about filling farming jobs in the future. County Mayor Rajmun Frischko, a father of two girls, told TVN24 Friday that he will have a nice surprise ready for those who next have a boy. Community head, Krystyna Zydziak, said 10 girls have been born since 2010. Statistics show that more boys than girls are born in Poland. In 2017, 207,000 boys were born compared to 196,000 girls.

Man reunites with $23K found in recycling sorting facility

EUREKA, Calif. (AP)—A man who accidentally tossed $23,000 into the recycling bin reunited with his life savings Saturday after a worker at a recycling facility in Northern California spotted a shoebox stuffed with money. When the man from Ashland, Oregon, realized his mistake on Thursday, the recycling bin had already been emptied into a truck bound for the Recology sorting facility in Humboldt County. The facility's general manager told the Santa Rosa Press-Democrat most of the recyclables from the truck had been sorted by the time the man contacted Recology. Workers were nonetheless told to be on the lookout for the box. Someone spotted the box down the sorting line Friday and recovered all but $320. The money somehow stayed in the box during the 200-mile trip to the facility.

Pennsylvania cat dives in to summer with love of swimming

BRADYS BEND, Pa. (AP)—A cat in western Pennsylvania is bucking stereotypes with its love of swimming. Tissy is an orange Maine Coon who regularly cools off in the family pool in Bradys Bend Township, about 55 miles north of Pittsburgh. Sonny Herr tells the Tribune Review she rescued Tissy as a homeless kitten about five years ago from a parking lot near the county fair. She says Tissy got curious about water when the kitty was about a year old and started to swim. Tissy's favorite thing is to swim with Herr's 9-year-old daughter Taylee. Tissy even wears a floatie around the waist and likes to be snuggled in the pool. The cat also loves bubble baths. According to the Cat Fancier's Association, many cat breeds enjoy water, including Turkish Angora, American Shorthair, Norwegian Forest Cat and the American Bobtail.

Florida boy calls 911 to order pizza, gets lesson and a pie

SANFORD, Fla. (AP)—A Florida boy who called 911 to report he was hungry and wanted a pizza got a lesson in proper emergency call etiquette, but he also got a pie. The Sanford Police Department said in a Facebook post that the hungry 5-year-old called 911 last Friday. Three officers responded to the home in suburban Orlando for a well-being check. They met with the boy and his older sister, who told them they were fine and that her brother had used the phone without her knowledge. The officers explained that the 911 system is only for emergencies.

DEATH & FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

†Frances Iglecias Blas

"Kai"

June 10, 1968 – August 2, 2019

In her new life she now joins:

Father:	†Domingo Matagolai I. Blas
Brothers:	†Jose I. Blas & †Antonio I. Blas
Sisters:	†Martha I. Blas & †Annette Tricia I. Blas
Brother-In-Law:	†Ricardo Castillo
Sister-In-Law:	†Agnes M. Blas & Christina M. Blas
Nephews & Nieces:	†Juan Camacho Jr. †Raymond Patrick Camacho †Christopher Vincent Camacho †Jaylynn Blas †Joyce B. Ayuyu †Oscar Ayuyu Jr. †Joy Abigail Blas

She will be forever remembered and missed by:

Mother:	Alejandra Iglecias Blas
Brothers/Sister-in-laws:	Maria B/Juan Camacho & Family †Jose I. Blas/Ana T. Blas & Family Herminia Blas/George Cruz & Family Agnes B. & †Ricardo A. Castillo & Family †Antonio I. & Christina M. Blas & Family Juan I. & Teresita Blas & Family Bernadita I. Blas Julita B. & Marcelino Roberto & Family †Martha I. Blas & Oscar Ayuyu & Family Edward I. & †Agnes M. Blas & Family Genet I. Blas & Sons Linda B. & Luis Guanzon & Family Jeffrey & Angie Taisague & Family †Joshua Taisague & Claire Pocaigue & Family
Special Auntie:	Carmen Blas Pangelinan & Family

She is also survived and will be missed by numerous reared children, godchildren, uncles, aunts, nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Daily mass of intention is being offered at the Mt. Carmel Cathedral at 6 o'clock a.m. Nightly rosary is being prayed at 7:30 p.m. at the San Isidro Chapel in CK District 4. On Saturday, August 10th at 7:30 a.m., her remains will be escorted from CHCC Chapel to the San Isidro Chapel for public viewing. At 10:45 a.m., her remains will be escorted from San Isidro Chapel to Mt. Carmel Cathedral. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m., followed by her interment at the Mt. Carmel Cemetery.

Thank you, Olomwáay, & Si Yu'us Ma'ase

Alejandra I. Blas & Children

Life & Style

Fox's Carlson calls white supremacy 'a hoax.'

NEW YORK (AP)—Fox News Channel host Tucker Carlson faced criticism Wednesday for declaring white supremacy "a hoax," the same day President Donald Trump visited El Paso, Texas, after a white gunman who had written an anti-Hispanic rant killed 22 people.

Carlson has faced criticism before for his commentary, including a statement that immigration has made America dirtier. His remarks Tuesday came with the nation rubbed raw by two weekend mass shootings and increased concerns by law enforcement officials about violence attached to white nationalism.

Carlson

"He has used his platform to push out prejudice," said Jonathan Greenblatt, CEO and national director of the Anti-Defamation League. "I think it's disgusting and I don't think it deserves a place on a major news network."

Fox News Channel representatives did not immediately return messages seeking comment on Wednesday.

Carlson's prime-time show routinely draws more than 3 million viewers on weeknights, second only to Sean Hannity on Fox News. Episodes of his program landed among the Nielsen company's list of Top 20 shows last week for both broadcast and cable television.

On Tuesday, he dismissed the concept of white supremacy as a serious problem for the country.

"The combined membership of every white supremacist organization—would they be able to fit into a college football stadium?" Carlson said. "I mean, seriously. This is a country where the average person is getting poorer, where the suicide rate is spiking."

Adopting a low, mocking voice, he said, "'White supremacy, that's the problem.' This is a hoax, just like the Russia hoax. It's a conspiracy theory used to divide the country and keep a hold on power. That's exactly what's going on."

He said he'd "never met anybody who ascribes to white supremacy. I don't know a single person who thinks this is a good idea. They're making this up. It's a talking point that they can use in this election cycle."

The ADL's Greenblatt said that it was "incredibly irresponsible to even make such a statement while we are still burying people who were gunned down by a white supremacist."

In congressional testimony recently, Michael McGarrity, the FBI's top counterterrorism official, said that his organization was conducting roughly 850 domestic terrorism investigations. White supremacists and other domestic terrorists were being arrested more often, and causing more deaths, than international terrorists, he said.

On Sunday after the shootings in El Paso and Dayton, Ohio, a group of former National Security Council counterterrorism directors issued a statement calling on the government to address domestic terrorism with the same dedication it used to attack international risks following the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

Toni Morrison was a 'literary mother' to countless writers

NEW YORK (AP)—When author Angela Flournoy was asked to dress as her favorite literary character for a magazine shoot four years ago, she knew how to look the part: a wide and "severe hat," a fur stole and the kind of stare that dares you to stare back.

For a day she could pretend to be Sula Peace, from Nobel laureate Toni Morrison's novel "Sula," an ode to female friendship and how it can endure the most shameless betrayals.

"The thing that has always drawn me to Sula is that she is extremely complicated," says Flournoy, whose novel "The Turner House" was a National Book Award finalist in 2015, "and the narrative doesn't make any excuses for her bad behavior, or ever make her less worthy."

Visitors view a portrait of Nobel laureate Toni Morrison, painted by the artist Robert McCurdy, Tuesday, Aug. 6, 2019, at the National Portrait Gallery in Washington. AP

Toni Morrison died this week at age 88 and left behind countless writers for whom her characters were like close acquaintances and her stories like parables to guide them through their own lives. Edwidge Danticat, the prize-winning Haitian-American author, called her "a literary mother to generations of writers, especially black women writers like myself." To ask a writer about reading Morrison or how Morrison influenced their work is, in part, to ask why they became writers at all.

Jamel Brinkley, a National Book Award finalist last fall for the story collection "A Lucky Man," was a teenager when he read "The Bluest Eye," Morrison's 1970 novel about a black girl wishing for blue eyes.

"I remember feeling overwhelmed by what the novel had to say about racism, and about notions of beauty and ugliness," he told The Associated Press in a recent email. "I felt like I was encountering something I hadn't seen in written work before, but at the same time so much of the book's sound and character felt familiar and affirmative to me, from life. It felt like a book that demanded you rise to certain level and become its reader, and it took a while before I could become that person."

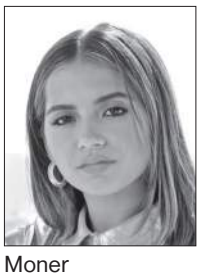
Julia Alvarez, whose novels include the best-selling "How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents," praised Morrison for helping "many of us writers in the margins" find their way. George Saunders cited "Beloved," her surreal, Pulitzer Prize-winning novel about an escaped slave, for opening up his ideas of historical fiction and helping to inspire the dreamlike novel "Lincoln in the Bardo," winner of the Man Booker Prize. "There is something about the scale of her work that inspires other writers to think in a more expansive way," he added, "she inspires with her incredible language and also the moral-ethical intensity of her work."

New live-action 'Dora' features a more grown up explorer

NEW YORK (AP)—Actress Isabela Moner says she didn't expect so much action when she signed up for "Dora and the Lost City of Gold ," the upcoming film about the adventurous Latina explorer.

Moner said she thought it would be a funny film, with Dora in a "fish out of water" kind of situation as she starts high school.

"It's a whole 'Tomb Raider' meets 'Indiana Jones' movie," Moner, 18, said during a recent interview. "It just kind of takes you on this journey that has so many layers and so many characters and it's wonderful. What I want, what I hope for is for not only kids but adults to really connect to the movie too, as well as people my age."


Moner

While the live-action film is based on a popular children's cartoon character that debuted in 2000, "Dora and the Lost City of Gold" presents a new, older version of the character. The film's Dora is encountering society for the first time in years when she is sent to California for high school.

"It's nothing like the TV show," director James Bobin said. "We have nods to the TV show, but the TV show is education for kids. This is a kind of adventure comedy that happens to feature the character of Dora you may know from the TV show. And in fact, plays with the idea that you do who she is and how she would behave if she were a real person."

The film, which is in theaters Friday, features a large Latino cast, a rarity for a major Hollywood production.

Mexican actor Eugenio Derbez, also a producer of the movie, plays a mysterious explorer; while Eva Longoria is Dora's mom and actor Michael Peña is Dora's dad. Jeff Wahlberg, who is of Dominican descent, plays Dora's famous cousin, Diego. And Benicio Del Toro is the voice of Swiper, the fox that steals Dora's things in the animated series.

Longoria said that it was an honor to participate in "such a positive portrayal of a young Latina who is smart, and kind and brave and fearless and speaks Spanish and really celebrates that".

"It's definitely the biggest budget movie I have ever done so to see a studio invest in our (Latin) community like this was really, really cool to see", she said.

"She is a Latina heroine, I think in many ways, and I think that's so underrepresented in filmmaking. This film feels like an 'Indiana Jones' starring a girl who's 16 and Latina, and that would never have happened 20 years ago," Bobin said.

Oprah Winfrey praises her late friend and idol Toni Morrison

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Oprah Winfrey praised her late friend and idol, Toni Morrison, hailing the best-selling author's "confidence and self-assuredness and nobility."

Winfrey and Morrison knew each other for more than 20 years, dating back to when Winfrey was so determined to learn the author's unlisted phone number that she called the local fire department. Winfrey said that when she started her book club in 1996, she was thinking of Morrison.

Winfrey

Winfrey recalled that when Morrison made her first appearance on "The Oprah Show," she talked about raising her boys as a single mother and left many in the audience moved.

Winfrey said Morrison recalled that her boys used to complain that she would fuss at them when they entered her room, asking them to button their shirts or comb their hair. "What I realize is that what every child really wants to know is do your eyes light up when I enter the room?" Morrison said then.

Winfrey said Morrison's lesson that day was larger than about children. It was about husbands, wives, lovers and anybody we care about.

"That's the great memory and gift that I think that she gave to me and the audience. I think people will read her books. They will feel whatever they feel. They will experience literature at its finest. But do your eyes light up when I enter the room?" Winfrey said.

Winfrey's memorable 2000 interview of Morrison will re-air Saturday at 8:00 p.m. Eastern and Pacific on Winfrey's OWN channel.

Morrison, the first black woman to win the Nobel Prize for Literature, died Monday night at 88. Winfrey was attending the premiere for her latest show on OWN, "David Makes Man," in Los Angeles on Tuesday. She and Michael B. Jordan serve as executive producers of the series, which debuts Aug. 14.

"Words don't seem adequate enough," said Jordan. "They don't seem like they're enough for what she's done. The legacy that she leaves behind, the inspiration that she was so many people and natural born activist leader. Yes, she's an amazing soul."

Actor Danny Trejo helps save baby trapped in a car in LA

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Actor Danny Trejo played a real-life hero when he helped rescue a baby trapped in an overturned car after a collision at a Los Angeles intersection.

Trejo

Authorities say two cars crashed Wednesday in the Sylmar neighborhood.

Video aired by KABC-TV shows Trejo at the crash scene. Trejo says he crawled into the wrecked vehicle from one side but couldn't unbuckle the child's car seat from that angle. He says another bystander, a young woman, was able to undo the buckle.

Together they pulled the baby safely from the wreckage.

The Los Angeles Fire Department says three people were taken to a hospital, and there were no life-threatening injuries.

The 75-year-old Trejo, an L.A. native, is best known for playing the character Machete from the "Spy Kids" series.

Fox: Jussie Smollet gone from 'Empire' but character lives on

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—Jussie Smollett is gone from "Empire" but his character will live on, at least in photos.

Smollet

Smollett's Jamal Lyon, who last season married Kai (Toby Onwumere), will be away on his honeymoon when the Fox drama returns Sept. 24 for its sixth and last season, Fox Entertainment CEO Charlie Collier said Wednesday.

"You'll see pictures of him in the background," Collier said, without elaborating. He promised "surprises at the beginning of the season that you're going to love."

In a Q&A with TV critics, affirmed series producer Lee Daniels' decision to drop Smollett from the hip-hop family drama.

Daniels had initially supported Smollett after the actor claimed he suffered a racist and anti-gay attack in Chicago. But when Smollett faced charges for allegedly fabricating the attack, Daniels said the matter had become painful and frustrating for him and the "Empire" cast .

Prosecutors dropped the charges against Smollett in March, but a special prosecutor could charge him again .

Asked why Fox had extended Smollett's contract despite his legal peril, Collier said the network wanted to properly assess the situation before making a decision about Smollett's future with "Empire."

Whether an "Empire" spinoff could happen remains to be seen. Collier said the focus now is giving the drama the "huge send-off" it's earned by virtue of its pop-culture impact, but he's open to the possibility.

"We're in the Lee Daniels and Danny Strong business," he said of the show's co-creators and executive producers. "If there's more stories to be told, we want to hear it."

Police: Motorcycle backfiring causes panic in Times Square

NEW YORK (AP)—Frantic people scrambled to get out of Times Square on Tuesday evening, pounding on theater doors to find a place to hide after the sound of a motorcycle backfiring caused fear that gunshots were being fired in the wake of mass shootings in other American cities.

The New York Police Department, which said it received multiple 911 calls about the tumult, tweeted a reassurance: "There is no #ActiveShooter in #TimesSquare. Motorcycles backfiring while passing through sounded like gun shots."

"Please don't panic. The Times Square area is very safe!" the department added.

But after 31 people were killed in two mass shootings in El Paso, Texas, and Dayton, Ohio, in less than 24 hours over the weekend, the sudden discharge of loud noises Tuesday night had people screaming as they fled in one of New York City's most popular areas.

"You hear a noise, you run. That's the state of this nation. We're petrified," Gov. Andrew Cuomo, a Democrat, said Wednesday as he reflected on the panic.

Video footage showed the throngs rushing out of the busy tourism and entertainment area, with some taking cover behind vehicles.

Gideon Glick, an actor in "To Kill a Mockingbird" on Broadway, said the show at the Shubert Theater had to be stopped because of the chaos.

"Screaming civilians tried to storm our theater for safety. The audience started screaming and the cast fled the stage," he wrote on Twitter. "This is the world we live in. This cannot be our world."

The Fire Department of New York said nine people were hurt altogether, with six transported to hospitals. Most injuries were minor.

Fox chief says Emmy Awards won't have a host this year

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—The Oscars did it, and now the Emmys will too. There will be no host at the ceremony honoring TV's best next month.

Fox Entertainment CEO Charlie Collier said Wednesday that going hostless allows more time to salute departing shows, including "Game of Thrones."

The HBO fantasy saga, which ended its run this past season, is the top nominee with a record-setting 32 nominations.

Collier said producers would have considered possible hosts and checked on their availability for the Sept. 22 ceremony. The Fox executive didn't directly address whether anyone had declined.

The Emmy show rotates among the top broadcast networks.

The Oscars ran into trouble when last year's planned host, Kevin Hart, stepped down following a backlash over his past homophobic tweets. The search for a replacement proved fruitless.

Taylor Swift to perform at MTV Video Music Awards

NEW YORK (AP)—Taylor Swift is set to perform at the MTV Video Music Awards.

Swift

MTV announced Wednesday that the pop star will hit the stage on Aug. 26 at the Prudential Center in Newark, New Jersey.

Swift and Ariana Grande are the most nominated acts, competing for 10 awards each. Swift's nominations include video of the year, song of the year, best visual effects and more.

The VMAs will be three days after Swift releases her seventh album, "Lover." Her gay pride anthem, "You Need to Calm Down," is nominated for video of the year along with Grande's "thank u, next," Billie Eilish's "Bad Guy," Lil Nas X and Billy Ray Cyrus' "Old Town Road," 21 Savage and J. Cole's "A Lot," and Jonas Brothers' "Sucker."

Comedian-actor Sebastian Maniscalco will be host.

Hannity to de Blasio: 'You drive me crazy!'

NEW YORK (AP)—New York Mayor Bill de Blasio sparred, clashed and laughed with Fox News host Sean Hannity on Wednesday when the Democratic presidential hopeful faced the conservative TV titan who has disparaged him for years.

For one hour on cable news' top-rated show, their raised voices overlapped as they disagreed on taxation of the wealthy, gun control, abortion laws, policing, the environment—and just about everything else.

Hannity summed up the encounter by telling the mayor: "I'm never going to agree with you. You drive me crazy!"

De Blasio is among a wide field of Democrats seeking the nomination to take on Republican President Donald Trump in next year's election.

Hannity ended the show by jokingly suggesting the two men bet on whether New York public schoolchildren, if asked, would vote for the healthy, vegetarian "Meatless Mondays" de Blasio has announced for this fall—or favorite fast foods Hannity brand-named.

But they also tackled the thorny issues facing Americans that are far from funny.

The host took aim at de Blasio's vow to "tax the hell out of the wealthy" to address income inequality

"Do you think that my money that I've earned and saved is in the wrong hands?" Hannity asked.

The mayor countered: "Do you think right now your viewers feel that it's OK that the wealthy have as much as they have and pay as little in taxes as they do? Do you think it's OK that big corporations pay nothing in taxes? Amazon is one."

De Blasio wants wealthy Americans to pay 70 percent of income in taxes.

Hannity challenged de Blasio to explain why the mayor favors offering tax-funded health care to immigrants in New York City who are in the United States illegally.

Woman happy to be alone attracts unwanted sympathy

DEAR ABBY: I'm a middle-aged woman who has survived a 30-year toxic relationship with a covert narcissist. I am now blessed to be able to divorce him and get therapy for his emotional abuse. I have six amazing grown children. I'm also a sophomore in college and have a part-time job. This is the first time in my life I am able to actually do things by myself. To say the least, I am busy.

Most of the time, I enjoy it—shopping, movies and even dining out. However, for some reason (especially while dining out), I get unwanted expressions of sympathy for being alone. Strangers comment about how sad it is to see me eating all alone. One woman offered to introduce me to her brother. She went so far as to ask for my phone number so she could pass it along to him, so that way I would have company.

I have friends and family, and if I had wanted company at that time, I would have invited someone. Sometimes I want to be alone to enjoy my "me" time. How can I respond to these unwanted comments and nip the conversations in the bud so they don't disrupt my entire meal?

ALONE BUT NOT LONELY IN LOUISIANA

DEAR ALONE: Here's how. Smile and thank these kind people for their thoughtfulness. Say that at this point in your life you are enjoying freedom and comfortable solitude. And the next time you enter a restaurant, ask the host to seat you farther back, so you are not the first person these individuals encounter on the way to their table.

As to the sweet lady who tried to fix you up with her brother, I hope in the future you might be open to whatever possibilities come your way.

DEAR ABBY: I just started seasonal housecleaning, and I'm realizing my house is filled with useless knickknacks. When I get rid of an unneeded item, I remember who gave it to me and the special occasion associated with the gift. Then I start feeling guilty and wonder if I will later regret my decision to discard it.

My other issue is, I live in a small town. I'm afraid if I donate something to a local charity, friends or neighbors may see it at the thrift store, and I'll seem ungrateful for their thoughtfulness. How can I get over these feelings of guilt as I declutter?

CRAMPED IN THE CAROLINAS

DEAR CRAMPED: Once a gift (or tchotchke) is given, it is the recipient's to do with as she chooses. If someone challenges your decision to donate an item, do not become defensive. Calmly explain that you are downsizing and decided to "share the pleasure" the item brought you with someone else.

DEAR ABBY: I was invited to a professional ballgame by my landlord, who has season tickets. He asked that I remind him to give me the ticket because he sells the ones he doesn't use. I have "reminded" him three times now, but I still haven't made it to a game.

When you invite someone somewhere, is it polite to make them do the work? He brought it up to me; I didn't ask. Am I wrong?

ANNOYED IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR ANNOYED: Asking someone to remind you of something makes sense if the person is more organized than you are. However, it is inconsiderate to extend an invitation and not follow through. I don't blame you for feeling annoyed because, after three reminders and no follow-through, it appears your landlord may not have been sincere in inviting you, or has sold the tickets to someone else.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

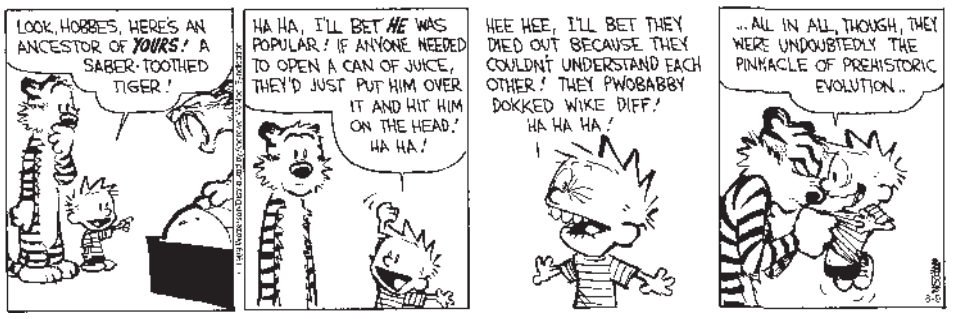
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


LOOK, HOBBES, HERE'S AN ANCESTOR OF YOURS! A SABER-TOOTHED TIGER!
HA HA, I'LL BET HE WAS POPULAR! IF ANYONE NEEDED TO OPEN A CAN OF JUICE, THEY'D JUST PUT HIM OVER IT AND HIT HIM ON THE HEAD! HA HA!
HEE HEE, I'LL BET THEY DIED OUT BECAUSE THEY COULDN'T UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER! THEY PWOBABBY DOKKED WIKE DIFF! HA HA HA!
...ALL IN ALL, THOUGH, THEY WERE UNDOUBTEDLY THE PINNACLE OF PREHISTORIC EVOLUTION..

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

TOO BAD WE DIDN'T MEET IN HIGH SCHOOL, LIZ
I COULD HAVE ASKED YOU TO THE PROM
WOULD YOU HAVE SAID YES?
UM...
I THINK SHE WAS FLOSSING HER CAT THAT NIGHT

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

GO FOR A WALK, ADAM! GREAT IDEA!
MAYBE YOU'LL GET INSPIRED BY NATURE, SHE SAYS...
WHAT ARE THE ODDS A CRAZED SQUIRREL WILL ATTACK YOU?
WE'RE GONNA NEED A BIGGER CAR!!
CHITTER CHITTER

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

RING
BARK BARK, ROWF. BARK BARK, YAP YAP, BARK ROWF
SORRY, JUST HEADQUARTERS WITH MY DAILY COUNTER-SQUIRREL INTELLIGENCE BRIEFING.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

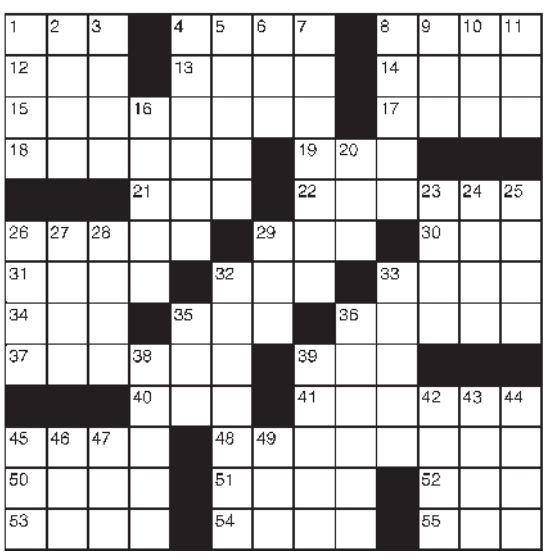
ACROSS
1 UFO crew
4 Lawman Wyatt
8 Nanny's headache
12 Grazing land
13 Bring up
14 Roof overhang
15 Sea of the North Atlantic
17 Apple tablet
18 Melodious
19 Junior
21 Workout unit
22 Sea off Greece
26 Cut off
29 Auction action
30 Depot (Abbr.)
31 Yale students
32 Twitch
33 Whirl
34 Estuary
35 Shore concealer
36 Blitzen's boss
37 Sea off Poland
39 That guy
40 "Shark Tank" network
41 Hearth remains
45 Latin love
48 Sea east of Italy
50 Fascinated by
51 Implement
52 Buckeyes' sch.
53 Booty
54 Staffer
55 Profit

DOWN
1 "Frozen" snow queen
2 Rip
3 Delhi dress
4 Pencil part
5 Man of morals?
6 Dorm VIPs
7 Unimaginative
8 Existence
9 Knock
10 Ms. Gardner
11 Actor Danson
16 Impales
20 British ref. work
23 "NFL Live" channel
24 Bickering
25 "Peter Pan" dog
26 Belgrade resident
27 Director Kazan
28 Test tube
29 Huge
32 Bach composition
33 Ballroom dance
35 Little lie
36 "Hard as nails," for one
38 Seer's deck
39 King of Judea
42 Thames town
43 Ascend
44 Bunny's tail
45 Be sick
46 6 on a phone
47 Oklahoma tribe
49 "Where — begin?"

Solution time: 25 mins.

A	B	R	A	■	F	A	M	■	H	E	N	
M	E	A	N	■	A	S	E	A	■	U	R	I
F	A	I	T	H	H	I	L	L	■	S	O	T
M	U	L	L	E	D	■	■	T	A	H	O	E
■	■	■	E	R	■	F	L	A	S	H	■	■
H	O	A	R	■	B	R	A	■	F	U	F	F
I	V	S	■	■	Y	E	N	■	■	S	L	Y
S	O	H	O	■	I	U	G	■	S	H	U	I
■	■	H	O	P	E	D	■	H	I	■	■	■
P	E	E	P	S	■	■	O	A	F	P	E	T
A	V	A	■	H	I	G	H	H	E	E	L	S
Y	E	F	■	A	L	A	I	■	N	A	S	A
S	H	S	■	W	E	P	I	■	S	I	A	R

Yesterday's answer 8-9



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Adelaide Kane, 29; Anna Kendrick, 34; Gillian Anderson, 51; Hoda Kotb, 55.

Happy Birthday: Refuse to let others stand in your way. If you want to get ahead, build your own future. Physically doing the work required will pay off. Put your plans in place, and use discipline and courage to reach your mark. Insecurity should be put on the back burner. Your numbers are 2, 13, 22, 24, 31, 37, 42.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Plan to have some fun. Spending time with someone you love or taking a short trip to visit friends or relatives will be enlightening. The information someone offers will help you reclaim something you lost a long time ago. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Sit tight. It doesn't matter what others do. If it isn't in your best interest, decline. Use your intelligence and reserve to ensure you don't get caught up in someone's scheme. Handle your personal finances and legalities yourself. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* You have more options than you realize. Refuse to jump into one scenario without looking at additional choices. A positive change at home will have an impact on a decision you have to make. Romance will enhance your personal life. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Think matters through, and take the path most inviting. Explore your options, and formulate plans that will encourage you to use your creative skills. A partnership with someone who shares your enthusiasm and objective looks promising. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Socialize, but don't go overboard. There will always be someone on the sideline waiting to criticize you or make you look bad. A physical challenge will be exhilarating and encourage you to be at your very best. Romance is in the stars. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* You'll tend to overreact. Take a moment to go over all the details of a situation before you decide to make a move. Personal growth or updating your image will be the best way to channel your energy. ✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Broaden your horizons by picking up information. Go directly to the experts, and follow through by taking action. The less said and the more done will encourage good results. Refuse to let anyone bully or take advantage of you. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Learn from your mistakes when handling people and situations that affect your reputation, status or income. Picking up additional skills or technology will ensure you are marketable should you want to make a professional change. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Consider what you want, check out opportunities and do whatever it takes to position yourself to reach the goal you set. A relationship with someone special will improve if you are attentive and plan a romantic evening. ✪✪✪

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			6					
6								9
9	8		1				3	5
			4		6	8		
4								6
		2	5		3			
8	5				7		4	2
7								1
				2				

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 8/09

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

7	4	8	2	9	5	6	1	3
5	2	1	3	6	7	4	8	9
6	9	3	4	8	1	7	5	2
2	1	7	8	5	4	9	3	6
3	8	4	6	1	9	5	2	7
9	5	6	7	3	2	1	4	8
1	3	2	5	7	6	8	9	4
4	7	5	9	2	8	3	6	1
8	6	9	1	4	3	2	7	5

Difficulty Level ★★★

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EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* If someone asks for too much, offer suggestions, but don't offer anything you don't feel is fair. Be candid about the way you think and where your priorities and loyalties will be applied. A change at home should benefit you. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Jump at any chance to show what you are capable of doing. By taking action and being responsible for your efforts, you will impress someone who has something to offer in return. Romance is encouraged and will improve your personal life. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Make decisions for the right reason. Refuse to let someone talk you into being extravagant or physically harmful. Intelligence and discipline will help you ward off temptation and people who are terrible influences. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are spirited, proud and fun-loving. You are outgoing and benevolent.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

CINNAMON BUNS Solution: 8 letters

R	E	E	E	A	T	E	N	B	N	E	D	L	O	G
I	C	C	D	E	Z	G	F	R	O	S	T	I	N	G
S	I	I	E	I	N	N	B	E	N	L	R	I	W	S
E	P	W	S	I	V	R	N	A	P	O	D	A	H	H
K	S	U	T	E	U	I	B	D	U	D	O	V	I	C
A	C	A	R	N	S	G	D	N	U	Y	E	A	S	T
B	O	A	C	Y	N	E	D	P	O	V	E	N	K	A
C	N	H	N	I	S	L	E	M	O	N	K	I	T	B
O	G	C	C	S	A	C	T	H	E	Z	A	L	G	L
M	N	I	E	R	A	H	R	G	C	T	E	L	I	E
F	A	R	I	N	G	A	G	U	E	M	I	A	A	M
O	T	P	S	I	G	S	C	O	O	L	A	B	M	A
R	S	F	L	U	F	F	Y	D	L	L	P	E	O	R
T	L	A	S	E	E	I	K	O	O	C	F	P	R	A
M	R	A	W	A	T	E	R	E	T	T	U	B	A	C

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Apple, Aroma, Bake, Batch, Bite, Bread, Brunch, Butter, Caramel, Coating, Comfort, Cookie, Cool, Cream Cheese, Dessert, Divide, Dough, Eaten, Eggs, Flour, Fluffy, Frosting, Glaze, Golden, Icing, Lemon, Light, Maple, Melt, Milk, Oven, Pan, Pecans, Pudding, Rich, Rise, Roll, Round, Salt, Size, Snack, Spice, Spiral, Sugar, Sweet, Swirl, Syrup, Tang, Vanilla, Warm, Water, Whisk, Yeast

Yesterday's Answer: Bowling

Jo's Jewels Collector's Edition is back by popular demand. Purchase online at www.WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6480.

CLASSIFIED ADS

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(2) Househelper - Knowledge in cooking Chinese, Japanese, Thai cuisine is a must. Experienced in household chores. With valid driver's license.

Submit Applications To:
AYD Services Inc.
Tel.# 235-7011

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(7) Trash Collector - Atleast High School graduate. With valid driver's license. Needs to be physically fit and willing to work flexible time and must be hardworking.

Submit Applications To:
AYD Services Inc.
Tel.# 235-7011

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VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

CFPJ Corporation
(18) Maintenance
& Repair Workers, General
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email: cfpjcorp.2014@yahoo.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(04) **Warehouse worker** - $7.93 per hour, plus 1.5 OT
Full time, 40 hours a week, Monday to Friday 7:30 am to 4:30 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Receive, store, and issue materials, equipment, and other items from stockroom, warehouse, or storage yard. Keep records and compile stock reports. Pack and unpack items to be stocked on shelves in stockrooms, warehouses, or storage yards. Store items in an orderly and accessible manner in warehouses, tool rooms, supply rooms, or other areas. Examine and inspect stock items for wear or defects, reporting any damage to supervisors. Receive and count stock items, and record data manually or using a computer. Mark stock items using identification tags, stamps, electric marking tools, or other labeling equipment.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
High School Graduate;
At least 12 months experience;
Must have knowledge in the inventory of construction materials and tools.

All interested applicants can submit resume at anniep@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI, Labor web site –marianaslabor.net.

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(04) **Interior Designer** - $8.48 to 9.32 per hour, plus 1.5 OT
Full time, 40 hours a week, Monday to Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Plan, design, and furnish interiors of residential, commercial, or industrial buildings. Formulate design which is practical, aesthetic, and conducive to intended purposes, such as raising productivity, selling merchandise, or improving life style. May specialize in a particular field, style, or phase of interior design. Design plans to be safe and to be compliant with the American Disabilities Act (ADA). Coordinate with other professionals, such as contractors, architects, engineers, and lumbers, to ensure job success. Inspect construction work on site to ensure its adherence to the design plans. Use computer-aided drafting (CAD) and related software to produce construction documents. Advise client on interior design factors such as space planning, layout and use of furnishings or equipment, and color coordination.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
Bachelor's Degree;
At least 24 months experience;
Must have knowledge of design techniques, tools, and principles involved in the production of precision technical plans, blueprints, drawings, and models

All interested applicants can submit resume at anniep@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI, Labor web site –marianaslabor.net.

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(02) **Environmental Health and Safety Manager** $10.65 to 10.65 per hour, plus 1.5 OT, Full time, 40 hours a week, Monday to Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Review, evaluate, and analyze work environments and design programs and procedures to control, eliminate, and prevent disease or injury caused by chemical, physical, and biological agents or ergonomic factors. May conduct inspections and enforce adherence to laws and regulations governing the health and safety of individuals. May be employed in the public or private sector. Includes environmental protection officers. Order suspension of activities that pose threats to workers' health or safety. Investigate accidents to identify causes or to determine how such accidents might be prevented in the future. Recommend measures to help protect workers from potentially hazardous work methods, processes, or materials. Inspect or evaluate workplace environments, equipment, or practices to ensure compliance with safety standards and government regulations. Develop or maintain hygiene programs, such as noise surveys, continuous atmosphere monitoring, ventilation surveys, or asbestos management plans.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
- Bachelor's Degree;
- At least 24 months experience in safety standards;
- Must possess various safety training certificates.

All interested applicants can submit resume at anniep@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI, Labor web site –marianaslabor.net.

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KOREA TOURISM INC JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(2) TOUR GUIDE
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Describe tour points of interest to group members, and respond to questions, escort individuals, or groups to cruises, sightseeing tours or thru places of interest such as individual establishments, public buildings, and art galleries, conduct education activities for school for school children, monitor visitors activities, to ensure compliance with establishment or tour regulations and safety practices, provide directions and other pertinent information to visitors.

REQUIREMENTS:
- Must be high school graduate
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- Able to read and speak in Korean language

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Or fax to 233-3005
or can call office number 233-3001 for more information
From Monday to Friday between the hours of 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

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ONE (1) ACCOUNTING TECHNICIAN- $8.84to 9.33 per hour, plus 1.5 OT, Full time, 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Compute, classify, and record numerical data to keep financial records complete. Perform any combination of routine calculating, posting, and verifying duties to obtain primary financial data for use in maintaining accounting records. May also check the accuracy of figures, calculations, and postings pertaining to business transactions recorded by other workers. Operate computers programmed with accounting software to record, store, and analyze information. Check figures, postings, and documents for correct entry, mathematical accuracy, and proper codes. Comply with federal, state, and company policies, procedures, and regulations. Operate 10-key calculators, typewriters, and copy machines to perform calculations and produce documents. Receive, record, and bank cash, checks, and vouchers.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
- High School Graduate or its equivalence;
- At least 24 months experience in bookkeeping, accounting or auditing clerk;
- Must be knowledgeable in operating PC, adding machine, electric typewriter, accounting software such as QuickBooks and/or PeachTree.

All interested applicants can submit resume at richel@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI, Labor web site –marianaslabor.net.

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NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

DFS Team 670 Club

Notice is hereby given that DFS Team 670 Club, whose last known principal address is located at T-Galleria, PO Box 500528 Saipan, MP 96950, was dissolved August 7, 2019. All persons having a claim against DFS Team 670 Club are required to contact Ms. Marida Pensader at 670-234-6615.

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COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY MULTI YEAR FINANCIAL AND COMPLIANCE AUDIT SERVICES

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL CPA-RFP-010-19

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed cost proposal for auditing services for a period of three (3) fiscal years. The location and scope of work package is available beginning July 19, 2019 at the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor, Arrival Building, at the Saipan International Airport.

Interested proposers must submit one original and three copies of the sealed proposal. Only proposals from U.S. nationally recognized firms will be accepted.

The sealed proposals must be submitted before 4:30 p.m. LOCAL TIME, August 16, 2019, at the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building, at the Saipan International Airport. CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals if in its opinion to do so is in CPA's best interest.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director **Date:** _____

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Position: 1 MASSAGE THERAPIST

Job Description: Massage and knead muscles and soft tissues of the body to provide treatment for medical conditions, injuries, or wellness maintenance; Confer with clients about their medical histories and problems with stress or pain to determine how massage will be most helpful; Apply finger and hand pressure to specific points of the body; Maintain treatment records; Assess clients' soft tissue condition, joint quality and function, muscle strength, and range of motion; Treat clients in professional settings or travel to clients' offices and homes; Provide clients with guidance and information about techniques for postural improvement and stretching, strengthening, relaxation, and rehabilitative exercises; Develop and propose client treatment plans that specify which types of massage are to be used; Refer clients to other types of therapists when necessary; Consult with other health care professionals, such as physiotherapists, chiropractors, physicians, and psychologists, to develop treatment plans for clients; Perform other adjunctive therapies or treatment techniques in addition to massage; Prepare and blend oils and apply the blends to clients' skin.

Minimum Qualifications: Must have at least 24 months of relevant work experience as a Massage or Physical Therapist.

Job Site: 2nd floor, Coco Building, Rte 319, Derence Jack Rd., Garapan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

How to Apply: Submit or mail application, Resume and credentials to:

THOMAS T. CHONG
Manager
American K&W Corporation
(Aroma Salon Kasumi)

Office Address: 1st Floor, Coco Building, Rte 319, Derence Jack Rd., Garapan, Saipan, CNMI

Mailing Address: PMB 978, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950

Email Address: kasumi1819@gmail.com

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D-backs beat Phillies, gain ground in wild-card race

PHOENIX (AP) — Zac Gallen would have liked to pitch longer in Wednesday's game against the Philadelphia Phillies. But the Arizona Diamondbacks' right-hander was on a pitch count, so he made the most of the time he had.

Gallen threw five scoreless innings and helped himself with a run-scoring sacrifice bunt in his Arizona debut, leading the Diamondbacks to a 6-1 win over the Philadelphia Phillies.

"I don't get necessarily nervous when I pitch," Gallen said when asked about his debut with a new team in a new ballpark. "When you pitch, you're kind of in control most of the game. Was definitely a little amped up to get out there and make a good first impression, but it was nice."

Gallen (2-3) allowed just one hit with three walks and six strikeouts, lowering his earned run average to 2.40. The 24-year-old who came over in a trade with the Miami Marlins on July 31 also picked up his first career RBI in the fourth inning thanks to Nick Ahmed's base running.

Ahmed was halfway down the third base line when Gallen bunted to third, and the Phillies' Scott Kingery opted to throw to first base for the out. Ahmed took off as soon as the ball was thrown and scored easily, giving the Diamondbacks a 4-0 lead.

"I wish it would have been a cooler RBI, but it helped us get a win, so it's fine by me," Gallen said.

The Phillies were held to five hits, including Bryce Harper's solo home run in the ninth inning, and have lost three of four. Harper's third home run in 18 games was his 20th of the season.

Arizona moved to 1 ½ games out of the second wild-card spot in the National League.

"I don't believe the sky is falling on us," manager Torey Lovullo said. "The energy that I'm feeling, the focus that I've seen over the last 24 hours, the ability to turn around some tough games and shower them off and get ready the next day, those are some good ingredients right now."

AP

Arizona Diamondbacks third baseman Eduardo Escobar fields a grounder hit by Philadelphia Phillies' Rhys Hoskins before throwing to second base to start a double play during the sixth inning of a baseball game Wednesday, Aug. 7, 2019, in Phoenix.

Yankees 14, Orioles 2

In Baltimore, Gio Urshela and Kyle Higashioka each hit two home runs, and the Yankees' long-ball outburst against the Baltimore Orioles reached historical proportions Wednesday night.

Urshela had a pair of two-run drives, and Higashioka totaled five RBIs with his two shots. It was the first career multihomer game for both players.

The Yankees have 11 players with multihomer games against Baltimore this season, breaking the record of 10 set by San Francisco against the Dodgers in 1958.

Cameron Maybin also went deep for the Yankees, who tied a major league record with 16 home runs in a three-game series. New York has hit 52 homers against the Orioles this season, breaking its own major league mark of 48 against the Kansas City Athletics in 1956.

The frustration of being dominated in this lopsided three-game series reached a boiling point for the last-place Orioles in the middle of the fifth inning. After manager Brandon Hyde leaned over and said something to Chris Davis, the first baseman lurched in Hyde's direction and had to be restrained by teammate Mark Trumbo and hitting coach Don Long.

Mets 7, Marlins 2

In New York, Michael Conforto homered twice, Pete Alonso and Jeff McNeil hit two-run shots and the Mets completed a four-game sweep of Miami.

The Mets posted their sixth straight victory, winning for the 13th time in 14 games.

Steven Matz (7-7) won again at Citi Field, helping New York stay in the thick of the NL wild-card race.

Matz (7-7) allowed two runs on seven hits and two walks over 6 2/3 innings, striking out seven.

Braves 11, Twins 7

In Minneapolis, Ozzie Albies homered twice in his second straight four-hit game, Ronald Acuña Jr. and Freddie Freeman both went deep, and Atlanta beat Minnesota.

Max Fried (13-4) used a season-high 10 strikeouts to win his fourth consecutive start, pitching into the sixth inning.

The terrific trio at the top of the lineup provided more than sufficient support, with Acuña, Albies and Freeman combining for eight hits and five RBIs in 15 at-bats.

White Sox 8, Tigers 1

In Detroit, Ivan Nova pitched eight scoreless innings, and Chicago beat Detroit.

Nova (7-9) allowed five hits, walked three and struck out one as he picked up his third win in four starts.

Former Tiger James McCann had three RBIs, while Tim Anderson reached base five times and scored three runs.

Blue Jays 4, Rays 3

In St. Petersberg, Reliever Brock Stewart allowed two hits over four scoreless innings in his Toronto debut and win over Tampa Bay.

Blue Jays rookie Bo Bichette set a team record with a double in eight straight games, breaking the mark of seven set by Carlos Delgado in 2000. The 21-year-old Bichette also extended his career-opening hitting streak to 10 games.

Ken Giles picked up his 15th save.

Astros 14, Rockies 3

In Houston, Yuli Gurriel drove in a team record-tying eight runs, Gerrit Cole won his 10th straight decision and the Astros routed Colorado.

Gurriel hit a three-run homer in the first inning, a sacrifice fly in the third, a three-run double in the fourth and an RBI grounder in the sixth. He tied Houston's RBI record set by J.R. Towles in 2007 against St. Louis.

Cole (14-5) struck out 10 in six innings.

Brewers 8, Pirates 3

In Pittsburgh, Keston Hiura hit two home runs and drove in three runs, powering Milwaukee to a three-game sweep of the Pirates.

Hiura hit a two-run homer with two out in the first inning and his second homer, the 13th of his rookie season, was a solo shot in the fifth. He also had a double in the third inning for the Brewers, who moved past the St. Louis Cardinals and into second place in the NL Central.

The Pirates fell to 4-21 since the All-Star break.

Cubs 10, Athletics 1

In Chicago, Ian Happ hit his second career grand slam, José Quintana tossed two-hit ball through seven innings to win his sixth straight and the Cubs routed Oakland.

Kyle Schwarber hit a three-run homer, Victor Caratini connected and Javier Báez kept up his latest hot streak with two hits and two RBIs for the Cubs. NL Central-leading Chicago took two of three from the A's and won its fifth in six games.

Mariners 3, Padres 2

In Seattle, Mallex Smith doubled leading off the eighth inning and scored when Daniel Vogelbach beat out a potential inning-ending double play, and the Mariners snapped a five-game losing streak.

Smith led off the eighth with a sinking liner that Wil Myers couldn't control on a diving attempt. Smith advanced to second when the ball slipped from Myers' hand on the throw and was credited with a double. J.P. Crawford bunted and catcher Austin Hedges appeared to throw out Smith at third base, only to have the call overturned on replay to put runners at the corners with no outs.

Indians 2, Rangers 0, 1st Game
Indians 5, Rangers 1, 2nd Game

In Cleveland, José Ramírez homered, the Indians' bullpen combined on a four-hitter and the Indians swept a doubleheader against Texas.

Ramírez's two-run homer helped the Indians win the opener 2-0.

He connected in the second inning of the second game off Lance Lynn (14-7), Franmil Reyes hit a sacrifice fly in the seventh and Carlos Santana, Yasiel Puig and Jason Kipnis drove in runs in the eighth as the Indians improved to 39-16 since June 4 —baseball's best mark over two months.

A.J. Cole (3-1) — Cleveland's third pitcher — got the win by working 2 2/3 scoreless innings. Nick Wittgren got the final five outs for his third save.

Willie Calhoun homered in the eighth for the Rangers.

In the opener, Ramírez connected off Ariel Jurado (6-7), who had blanked the Indians on two singles before allowing the third baseman's 15th homer.

Nationals 4, Giants 1

In San Francisco, Gerardo Parra hit a three-run homer against his former team, Joe Ross pitched six shutout innings of three-hit ball and Washington completed a three-game sweep of the Giants.

Parra broke camp with the Giants but was designated for assignment on May 3. His seventh homer came in the third inning off Shaun Anderson (3-4) and made it 4-0.

Ross (2-3) struck out five and walked two in his third start of the season.

The Giants have lost four straight games and seven of their last eight. They scored in the ninth on Brandon Crawford's RBI double off Daniel Hudson after Tanner Rainey and Wander Suero combined for two scoreless innings.

Royals 4, Red Sox 4, Suspended

In Boston, the series finale between the Boston Red Sox and Kansas City Royals was suspended by rain early Thursday morning with the score tied 4-4 in the top of the 10th inning after a nearly two-hour delay.

The game will be picked up where it left off—with a 2-1 count on Meibrys Viloria—on a mutual off-day, Aug. 22, at 1:05pm.

Dodgers 2, Cardinals 1

In Los Angeles, Russell Martin drove a two-run, two-out single up the middle for the Dodgers' 10th walk-off win of the season, and Los Angeles swept St. Louis.

Casey Sadler (2-0) pitched the ninth for Los Angeles, which avoided its first shutout loss since May 18 in dramatic fashion for its fifth straight win.

Murray's first game tops 1st preseason weekend

AP
Arizona Cardinals quarterback Kyler Murray smiles as he throws a pass during an NFL football training camp practice at State Farm Stadium Tuesday, Aug. 6, 2019, in Glendale, Ariz.

Hey, Kyler, this is for real.

Sort of.

Kyler Murray, April's top overall draft pick, will make his preseason debut for Arizona on Thursday night when the Cardinals host the Chargers.

The quarterback won't be on the field very long against Los Angeles, but he should get a chance to show some of the skills that so enamored the Cardinals. He also could wind up on the ground a few times—for the first time as a pro considering QBs don't get hit in practice.

"I'm looking forward to having fun," Murray says. "It's going to be different suiting up in a Cardinals jersey. Not playing for a school, you're representing a state."

That state saw its team have the worst record in the NFL in 2018, fire coach Steve Wilks and hire Kliff Kingsbury, an offensive guru who had recently been fired as head coach at Texas Tech.

"To be kind of pushed in as the guy, there's no kind of grace period of leading him in with any veteran presence at that position," Kingsbury said. "He's remained humble. He's remained diligent in his work habits, so I've been proud of that for him."

With running back Melvin Gordon's holdout, Austin Ekeler and Justin Jackson will get plenty of carries for the Chargers.

Patriots at Lions

Former Patriots with injuries are of interest here.

Trey Flowers, the defensive end who went from New England to Detroit as a free agent and was the Lions' big offseason acquisition, is on the physically unable to perform list.

Coach Matt Patricia, a former defensive assistant for the Patriots in his second season with Detroit, has been recovering from a surgically repaired left leg that's caused him to move around the practice facility on a vehicle.

Titans at Eagles

If Eagles QB Carson Wentz plays, it'll be his first action since a back injury ended his season early for the second straight year and forced him to watch Nick Foles lead the team to a playoff victory in his absence. Foles, the Super Bowl MVP two years ago, is gone now and Nate Sudfeld is trying to solidify the backup spot.

Tennessee gives new offensive coordinator Arthur Smith his first chance to call plays in a game. Smith was promoted from tight ends coach to coordinator when Matt LaFleur took the head coaching job with Green Bay.

Redskins at Browns

First-round quarterback Dwayne Haskins is expected to make his Redskins debut. The 15th overall pick out of Ohio State is competing with veterans Case Keenum and Colt McCoy for the starting job. Haskins has flashed a strong arm, but made a lot of rookie mistakes in camp.

"We'll see how he does in a game," coach Jay Gruden said. "We'll see how he's taken what he's done on the practice field to see how it transitions into a real game situation. And how he handles the huddles and cadence, anticipation, accuracy—all that good stuff."

There's much anticipation about Cleveland—QB Baker Mayfield, new WR Odell Beckham Jr., Myles Garrett—but it's unlikely any will play much if at all.

Jets at Giants

Adam Gase gets started as Jets head coach. He was hired in January after New York fired Todd Bowles after four seasons without making the playoffs. He isn't likely to use prized addition running back Le'Veon Bell.

Gregg Williams' defense will also be on display for the first time with new inside linebacker C.J. Mosley and first-round pick Quinnen Williams, who has looked good in camp on the D-line.

Eli Manning is starting a team-record 16th season, but is in the final year of his contract.

Falcons at Dolphins

Brian Flores' first game as Miami's coach.

"I'm very excited," he says. "I'm excited to see all the hard work we've put in from April 1 until now, to go out and try to perform and execute at a good level."

One player to watch: Preston Williams, an undrafted receiver out of Colorado State, who has been the most impressive rookie for the Dolphins in camp.

Colts at Bills

Though Buffalo's new-look offensive line has been beset by injuries, the Bills will get their first glimpse at a retooled offense featuring receivers John Brown and Cole Beasley. Center Mitch Morse (concussion) missed the past 10 days. Tackle LaAdrian Waddle will miss the season after tearing his right quadriceps on Sunday.

With Andrew Luck out and Jacoby Brissett taking limited snaps, Bills fans might get to watch Chad Kelly try to resuscitate his QB career.

Jaguars at Ravens

The Ravens are expected to use quarterback Lamar Jackson briefly to see how he handles first-year offensive coordinator Greg Roman's revamped playbook. It will also mark the debut of former Penn State quarterback Trace McSorley, who will see extended time because backup Robert Griffin III is out with a broken right thumb.

Jacksonville will rest nearly all of its potential starters after working out together with the Ravens this week. That includes new quarterback Nick Foles.

Panthers at Bears

Panthers star linebacker Luke Kuechly has no qualms about playing in exhibition games. Kuechly returned to full practice this week after missing time last week, noting he got hit on the side during practice, but added that "everything is fine." The seven-year NFL veteran jokes playing in the preseason "it helps me remember how to play football."

"You can't tackle people out here (at practice) and there is a big difference between running by a guy and tagging off and actually tackling someone," Kuechly says.

Texans at Packers

Coach Bill O'Brien said that many Texans starters should get some playing time, though it's unlikely star defensive end J.J. Watt will be one of them. Watt left a joint practice with Green Bay early on Monday after experiencing tightness in his groin and sat out Tuesday as a precaution.

Watt, who grew up a Packers fan, is disappointed he won't get to play at Lambeau Field, but knows being careful this early in the preseason is more important than getting on the field.

Broncos at Seahawks

QB Joe Flacco makes his Denver debut at Seattle.

"At this point, it doesn't really feel any different than it's been the last 10 years," Flacco says. "I think your rookie year is obviously a little different than any of the others. But at this point I am used to being here. I am used to being in this uniform. These are my teammates and I am just excited about doing it."

Seattle will get its first chance to see Geno Smith and Paxton Lynch in a game situation in the competition to back up Russell Wilson.

Rodgers miffed by Packers' joint practices with Texans

GREEN BAY—If you were wondering if the Green Bay Packers got a lot out of their two days of joint practices with the Houston Texans, the answer is yes and no.

Yes, if you're coach Matt LaFleur.

No, if you're quarterback Aaron Rodgers.

The two couldn't have been in further disagreement about the value of practicing with another team.

LaFleur liked the workouts with the Texans on Monday and Tuesday so much that he'd like to hold joint practices again and add another team.

"Absolutely, 100 percent I want to do this again," LaFleur said. "I'd like to do it multiple times if we could."

LaFleur wasn't happy with his offense's performance Tuesday, but he thought it was important to get work against someone other than the team's own defense. He thinks just having someone different to match up against made it beneficial to his team's development.

On the other hand, Rodgers didn't find much value in the work and seemed cranky when asked about it after practice Tuesday.

"I'm glad it's over," Rodgers said, when asked about the joint practices.

Asked why, he said, "So we can get onto the rest of training camp."

Rodgers felt that the Packers were finding their groove with the daily installations of the offense and defense prior to the Texans coming to town. During the two practices, he said everything became so dumbed down that it wasn't that beneficial to the offense, which is installing a new system.

Teams typically don't show much in exhibition games because they want to save their new stuff for the regular season. They show even less in joint practices, apparently.

"I think before the Texans came, we had some really good practices," Rodgers said. "I think we were very efficient, we ran the ball well, we were getting into more of our miscellaneous plays and schemes, kind of installs 6, 7 and 8, and felt good about the work that we did.

"But again, this (the pair of joint practices) was, as the preseason is, it's kind of limited scheme and limited pressures."

Rodgers said he didn't think it was smart to run some of the special teams drills the two teams engaged in, especially kickoff return where there was no tackling but both sides ran down to cover kicks and engaged in some three-quarter speed collisions.

Woods rested, back not entirely ready for playoffs

JERSEY CITY, N.J. (AP) — Tiger Woods is plenty rested going into the FedEx Cup playoffs.

Whether he's ready is day to day.

Woods stopped hitting full shots on the back nine of Liberty National on Wednesday during his pro-am round for The Northern Trust, a precautionary move during a year in which he repeatedly has said he can't always predict how his back is going to feel.

"Just feeling stiff, being smart about it," Woods said. "As I said to you guys all year, this is how it is. Some days I'm stiffer than others. Yesterday I was out there hitting it great. Today I'm stiff. Hopefully, I'm not that way tomorrow."

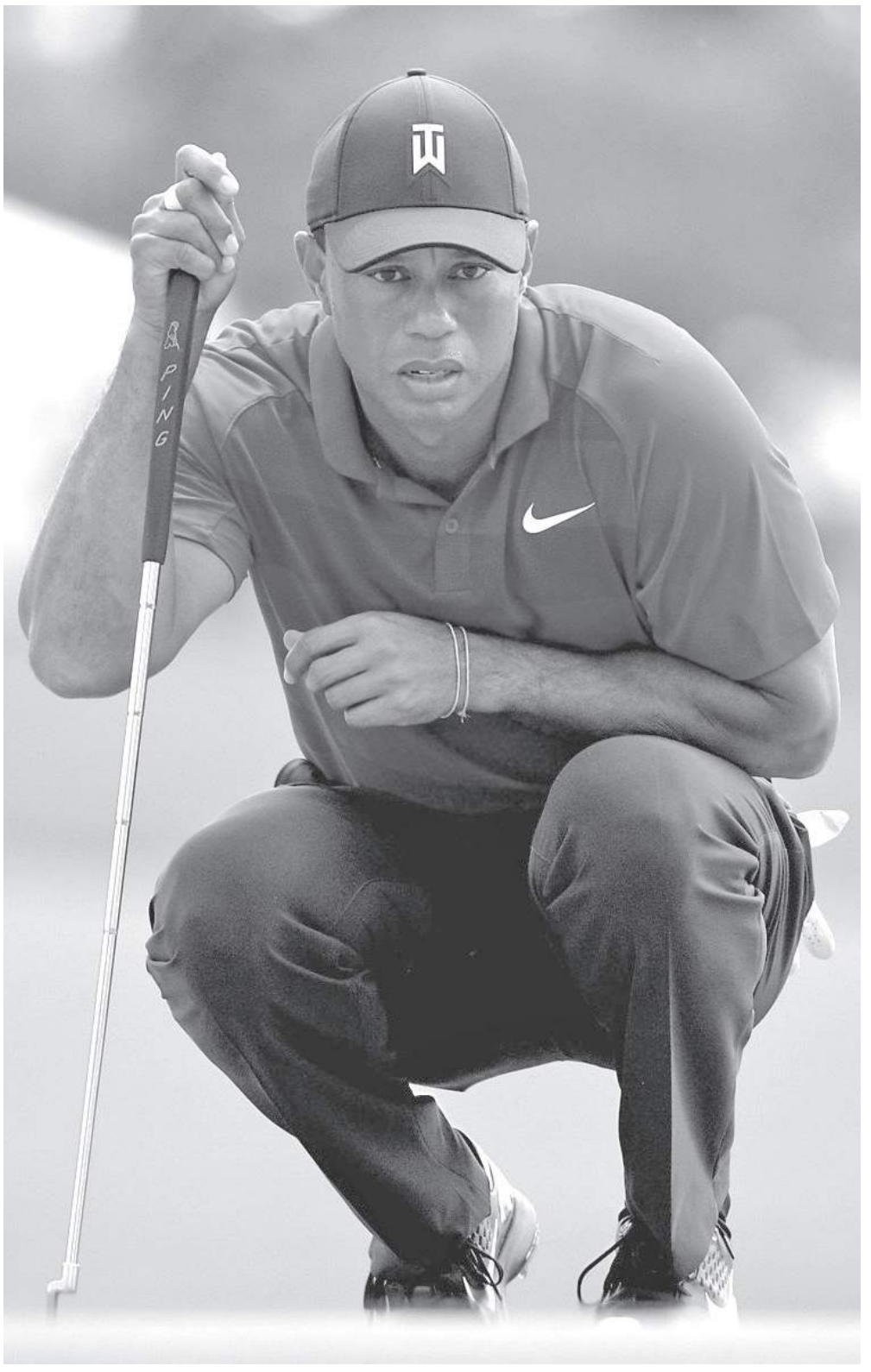
He also didn't sound overly concerned.

Woods is willing to accept that a 43-year-old back that has gone through four surgeries in the last five years is not going to feel like it once did. He also looked back to the spring, when he took an extra week off in March, and then chipped and putted when he arrived at Augusta National for nine holes. And by the end of the week, he was the Masters champion.

As much as Woods has tried to take time off, he can only hope he faces the busiest part of the year.

The Northern Trust begins the lucrative FedEx Cup playoffs, starting with two tournaments with $9.25 million purses, ending at the Tour Championship for the top 30 players competing for the $15 million prize.

Woods is at No. 28, the lowest position of the four major champions, primarily because he hasn't played all that much. Since he won a fifth green jacket at the Masters, he has played just four times, three of them majors.



AP

Tiger Woods of the United States looks at the line of his putt on the 1st green during the second round of the British Open Golf Championships at Royal Portrush in Northern Ireland, Friday, July 19, 2019.

Now he faces three straight weeks if he gets to the Tour Championship, a goal for reasons other than a shot at $15 million. Woods completed his remarkable comeback last year at East Lake by winning for the first time in five years, a big moment for him and for golf.

But he has to play well to get there.

Points are quadrupled for the playoff events to add volatility. That means Pat Perez, who earned the 125th and final spot in the postseason by two points, could win this week and move to as high as No. 2 in the standings.

The Top 70 advance next week to Medinah for the BMW Championship, and the top 30 make it to the Tour Championship. Woods sounded as concerned about getting to East Lake as what it would take to reach the FedEx Cup finale.

"If you're missing cuts, who cares? You're taking weekends off and a couple extra days of rest," he said. "But I'm trying to get myself where I'm in contention, where it takes a toll on you, and that's what I want to feel. I want to feel that type of tiredness where I have a chance to win. That's a good feeling."

PGA champion Brooks Koepka is the No. 1 seed and coming off his third victory of the season at the FedEx St. Jude Invitational, his first World Golf Championship title. Koepka has established himself firmly as No. 1 in the world, which guarantees nothing over the next three weeks. Only two players who started the FedEx Cup playoffs at No. 1 wound up winning—Jordan Spieth in 2015 and Woods in 2007 and 2009.

For Woods, it was a different level of uncertainly the last time he was at Liberty National. He was an assistant captain in the 2017 Presidents Cup, still recovering from a fourth surgery that fused his lower back. He was asked if he could see a scenario in which he would not return to competition and Woods replied: "Yeah, definitely. I don't know what my future holds for me."

He started full swings a few weeks later, played in his holiday event in the Bahamas at the end of the year, was contending in March and won in September. It was an aggressive return for someone who had completed just seven rounds in the previous 27 months before coming back.

Woods first worked his way back into the top 50 to become eligible for World Golf Championships. He made such a strong push at the end of the year that Woods played eight times in 11 weeks—five of the last six, including the Ryder Cup.

"I learned a lot last year by playing too much," Woods said. "Coming back from my procedure and not really knowing what to expect, I pushed it pretty hard—vowed I would never do that again. I've cut back the schedule quite a bit, and that's the challenge now. ... We've got a more condensed season, and it's trying to figure out how to stay sharp, practice and also have my back feeling good all the time. It's a challenge."

Liberty National is a course he has played well. He was a runner-up to Heath Slocum in 2009 and Adam Scott in 2013. It was the 2013 event where Woods first started feeling back spasms, dropping to his knees after some shots on the back nine. He had the first of four back surgeries seven months later.

He returns as the Masters champion, No. 5 in the world and not entirely sure what his back will allow him to do.

Koepka, McIlroy tired of slow play going unpunished

JERSEY CITY, N.J. (AP)— Brooks Koepka seemed to smolder as he watched J.B. Holmes work in the final round of the British Open last month, out of the running for golf's final major of the season but diligently lining up shots anyway—to an almost obnoxious degree.

The time it took to play each shot didn't pay off. Holmes shot a 16-over-par 87 in the final round after beginning the day in second place, six shots behind leader Shane Lowry.

And while Koepka, the world No. 1, didn't place any blame on Holmes for his own 3-over-par 74, Koepka has become an outspoken adversary to slow play. Ahead of The Northern Trust at Liberty National Golf Course, Koepka continued his campaign against a paint-drying pace.

"I get that you can take a long time for your thought process, but once you're done thinking about it, just go. What else is there to do? That's been the problem I have," Koepka said Wednesday. "It's just gotten out of hand. It seems now that there are so many sports psychologists and everybody telling everybody that they can't hit it until they are ready, that you have to fully process everything. I mean, I take 15 seconds and go, and I've done all right."

Koepka's done more than all right, entering the FedEx Cup Playoffs with a commanding lead after three wins—including the PGA Championship and WGC-FedEx St. Jude Invitational—and eight top-10 finishes.

Koepka figured players might be deciding which club to hit. But for players who arrive earlier in the week for practice rounds, Koepka feels it should already be fairly obvious to them which club to use, particularly in the tee box.

Midway through the final round at Royal Portrush last month, Koepka pointed to an imaginary watch on his wrist, staring at an official. The message was clear: let's speed this round up. But officials are hesitant to enforce pace of play regulations, he says.

"Try to get put on the clock, but doesn't seem to work because nobody will penalize anybody," Koepka said. "And you know what, even if I take over 40 seconds, penalize me. I'll be the guinea pig. It doesn't matter. It needs to happen."

Rory McIlroy doesn't think a shot clock in golf would be the perfect fix to pacing issues, but the Northern Irishman wants something done.

"For me, I think the guys that are slow are the guys that get too many chances before they are penalized," McIlroy said. "So, it should be a warning and then a shot. It should be, you're put on the clock and that is your warning, and then if you get a bad time while on the clock, it's a shot. That will stamp it out right away.

"I don't understand why we can't just implement that. We are not children that need to [be] told five or six times what to do. OK, you're on the clock. OK, I know if I play slowly here, I'm going to get penalized, and I think that's the way forward."

Koepka believes slow play is "100 percent" on players taking their time rather than hazards and adverse weather conditions forcing increased time and attention to be paid on each shot.

But with lengthy rounds and waiting on tee boxes for groups ahead to finish up, golf can get frustrating, even for the world's best players.

"Five and a half hours to play golf is a long time. Everybody's going to get bored," Koepka said. "There's not much action in golf. If you really think about it, you're probably only playing for about five minutes—maybe six, seven minutes total—and the rest of the time, I'm just walking. You try walking by yourself for four, four and a half hours, and see how boring it gets.

Meanwhile, Thunderstorms rolled through Liberty National Golf Club late Wednesday afternoon, just hours before the start of The Northern Trust, bringing heavy wind and rain that damaged some of the tournament structures and hospitality venues.

The PGA Tour called the damage "cosmetic" and said no one was injured.

US Soccer hires lobbyist over pay gap

NEW YORK—The U.S. Soccer Federation has hired two lobbying firms to argue that there is no pay gap between the U.S. Women's National Team and the men, according to reports.

This comes after two senators—Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) and Patty Murray (D-Wash.)—introduced a bill in July requiring Olympic and amateur athletes to be paid equally.

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Politico reported that FBB Federal Relations and Van Ness Feldman are working on behalf of U.S. Soccer and are circulating a presentation that states the women made more money than the men last year.

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Meanwhile, maybe some of Jill Ellis' magic will rub off on the Miami Dolphins. Can't hurt to try.

Ellis, who last month guided the U.S. women's national soccer team to a second consecutive World Cup title, was a special training camp guest of Dolphins coach Brian Flores on Tuesday. It provided quite a buzz as Miami's rookie coach huddled his team near the end and introduced Ellis to a rousing applause, then turned over the floor to allow her to address his squad.

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"It was great to see her out here," veteran receiver Brice Butler said. "They've been winning championships for a long time. Just to get a piece of that, a reflection of that out on our practice field is great."

The gist of her message?

"I told them, 'Play hard against each other in training,' " said Ellis, who announced she will step down from the team upon the completion of its five-game exhibition tour. "Every day, our players pushed each other. And that's what helps you, because iron sharpens iron. And I just said we were probably the most prepared team at the World Cup, and the details and preparation is the key to get it done. And the final thing is heart. That's always the intangible."

The Dolphins are surely challenged to take heed as one of the most unproven teams in the NFL. Flores seeks to establish a new culture built on the type of discipline that remains a trademark at his previous stop in New England, where he was groomed by Bill Belichick.

Intended or not, featuring Ellis to echo such themes was a neat social statement. As the women's soccer crown has rekindled conversation about compensation and gender equity, the coach of an NFL team made it a point for his players to take in a lesson from an accomplished female leader.

The enthusiastic response from Dolphins players, coaches and staff added another layer of the love Ellis has felt while on an extended victory lap since claiming the cup in France.

TSL

From Page 32

last eight years.

"We wish all the golfers good luck in this weekend's competition. We would also like to commend the organizers for putting out this worthy event," the TSL Foundation official said.

More than 200 players have registered for the two-day contest, according to tournament director Ben Babauta. Majority are Saipan golfers, while Guam has 34 players competing in the annual tournament. China has eight entries, Japan and Rota have six apiece, and Korea and Rota have two each.

"We are all set and the TOC committee members and officials would like to thank everyone, from the sponsors to players and the volunteers, for being part of the 24th Governor's Tournament of Champions," Babauta said.

Six flights in the men's division will be featured in this weekend's tournament—the Men's Championship, A, B, C, Senior and Super Senior—while the Ladies Flight will have the Low Gross and Net winners. The Top 3 finishers in the men's flights and Ladies Low Gross will get 500, $400, and $300 cash, respectively, while Casio watches and $100 worth of DFS gift certificate will be awarded to the No. 4 to 5 placers. The Top 3 in the Ladies Low Net will bring home trophies.

Besides the cash prizes, golfers also have a chance to win a new 2019 Mazda CX-5 Sport and a 2019 Mitsubishi Eclipse Cross from Triple J Motors, a Nissan Frontier from Joeten Motors, and 2019 Buick Encore from Guam Auto Spot. The four cars are hole-in-one prizes. ***(PR)***

CNMI

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After playing for three straight days, the CNMI bets took a much-deserved breather yesterday and will return to the pitch today at 6pm (7pm Saipan time) to face Chinese-Taipei, which lost all its three matches in Group A.

Then tomorrow, the Commonwealth players will close out their campaign in the EAFF event against China, which finished pool play with a 2-0-1 mark, the same record South Korea and Japan had. Japan won the tiebreak (12 goal difference), while South Korea settled for the No. 2 spot.

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EAST ASIAN FOOTBALL FEDERATION

The CNMI's Christina Atalig pushes the ball away from Hong Kong defenders during their game in the 2019 East Asian Football Federation U15 Girls Festival last Wednesday at the Mokpo International Football Training Center in South Korea.

TEEN

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Mita also pointed out the importance of proper nutrition since they are doing high-intensity training camps and preparing for a tournament as national team players, not just club players competing in a local league. He reminded them, too not to be always cautious of making mistakes, but instead move on and learn from these shortcomings.

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"For many of the players, it was a unique experience to be away from family for an extended period of time. They have to do things on their own like cleaning and they put genuine efforts and adapted well. We are grateful to Tuloy Foundation for the hospitality, great facility, and for really taking care of us like family," Mita said.

Now that Mita and the 22 players are back on Saipan, they have only about a month for their final preparation for the AFC qualifier, which will be held in Jakarta, Indonesia from Sept 14 to 22. In the tournament, the CNMI is in Group G and will be playing against China, Brunei, and the Philippines. The top finishers in each of the 11 groups in the qualifiers plus the five best runners-up will qualify in the finals that will take place from Sept. 3 to 16, 2020.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Players and officials of the CNMI Boys U15 National Team pose with the De La Salle Zobel U15 players and coaches after their training match last week in the Philippines.

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CNMI Boys U15 National Team head coach Michiteru Mita (with white cap) gives instructions to his players before starting their training session at the Tuloy FC Field in the Philippines last week.

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D-backs beat Phillies, gain ground in wild-card race

PAGE 28

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Murray's first game tops 1st preseason weekend

PAGE 29

Teen Ayuyus put in work

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Boys U15 National Team is back on Saipan with the tools it needs when it competes in the Asian Football Confederation U16 Championship 2020 Qualifiers next month.

The Teen Ayuyus returned from an eight-day training camp in the Philippines last Sunday and Northern Mariana Islands Football Association technical director and head coach Michiteru Mita is pleased with the results of their off-island preparations for the AFC event.

"The main objective of this camp was to simulate the AFC U16 Championship Qualifier—for the boys to experience a foreign environment while they have a series of matches, and to condition, team build, and prepare for subsequent matches over a period of time. The team also had opportunities to analyze and discuss our games, and our strategic direction was formed, so the camp was a success," Mita said.

The group, which is made

See TEEN on Page 31

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The CNMI's Gabriel Arkoh Jr., right, works with the ball during a training match against Tuloy U15 team at the Tuloy XO Field in the Philippines last week.

CNMI faces China and Chinese-Taipei

EAST ASIAN FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

The CNMI's Jannah Casarino, left, and Kaithlyn Chavez, right, step up on defense against Hong Kong's Nga Man Nak during the second half of their game in the 2019 East Asian Football Federation U15 Girls Festival last Wednesday at the Mokpo International Football Training Center in South Korea.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Girls U15 National Team wrapped up its pool assignments in the 2019 East Asian Football Federation U15 Girls Festival and will play the final two games at the Mokpo International Football Training Center in South Korea against Chinese-Taipei and China.

The Luem Khen Koo-coach team dueled Hong Kong last Wednesday afternoon with the former British colony cruising to a 5-0 victory to finish No. 1 in Group B with a 3-0-0 win-draw-loss record. The CNMI, Mongolia, and Guam had similar 0-3-0 mark, but the former won the tiebreak due to goal difference (-2). Mongolia (-5) was ranked third, while the Commonwealth (-7) dropped to fourth.

"The girls did their best to hold off Hong Kong. We had a couple of counter attacks and we were also able to have ball possession. Hong Kong was a tough opponent because they had better technical skills compared to our two previous op-

See CNMI on Page 31

TSL Foundation supports TOC

The Tan Siu Lin Foundation has been named gold sponsor of the 24th Governor's Tournament of Champions that will be held this weekend at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort.

"We are pleased to partner anew with the Governor's Tournament of Champions organizers in bringing this premier golf tournament and helping raise funds for beautification projects on island and for non-profit groups that provide assistance to members of our community," TSL Foundation executive director Merlie Tolentino said.

Tolentino was joined by TanHoldings executives in handing over the TSL Foundation's $5,000 donation to TOC organizers yesterday at the company's Corporate Office in Beach Road. The TSL Foundation, the charitable arm of TanHoldings, has been supporting TOC in the

See TSL on Page 31

Tan Holdings
Tan Siu Lin Foundation
Date: AUGUST 8, 2019
PAY TO THE ORDER OF 24TH GOVERNOR'S TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS $ 5,000.00
GOLD SPONSORSHIP

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tan Siu Lin Foundation executive director Merlie Tolentino, sixth left, presents the ceremonial check donation to organizers of the 24th Governor's Tournament of Champions yesterday at the TanHoldings Corporate Office in Beach Road.